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Ann Arbor Observer

December 2016

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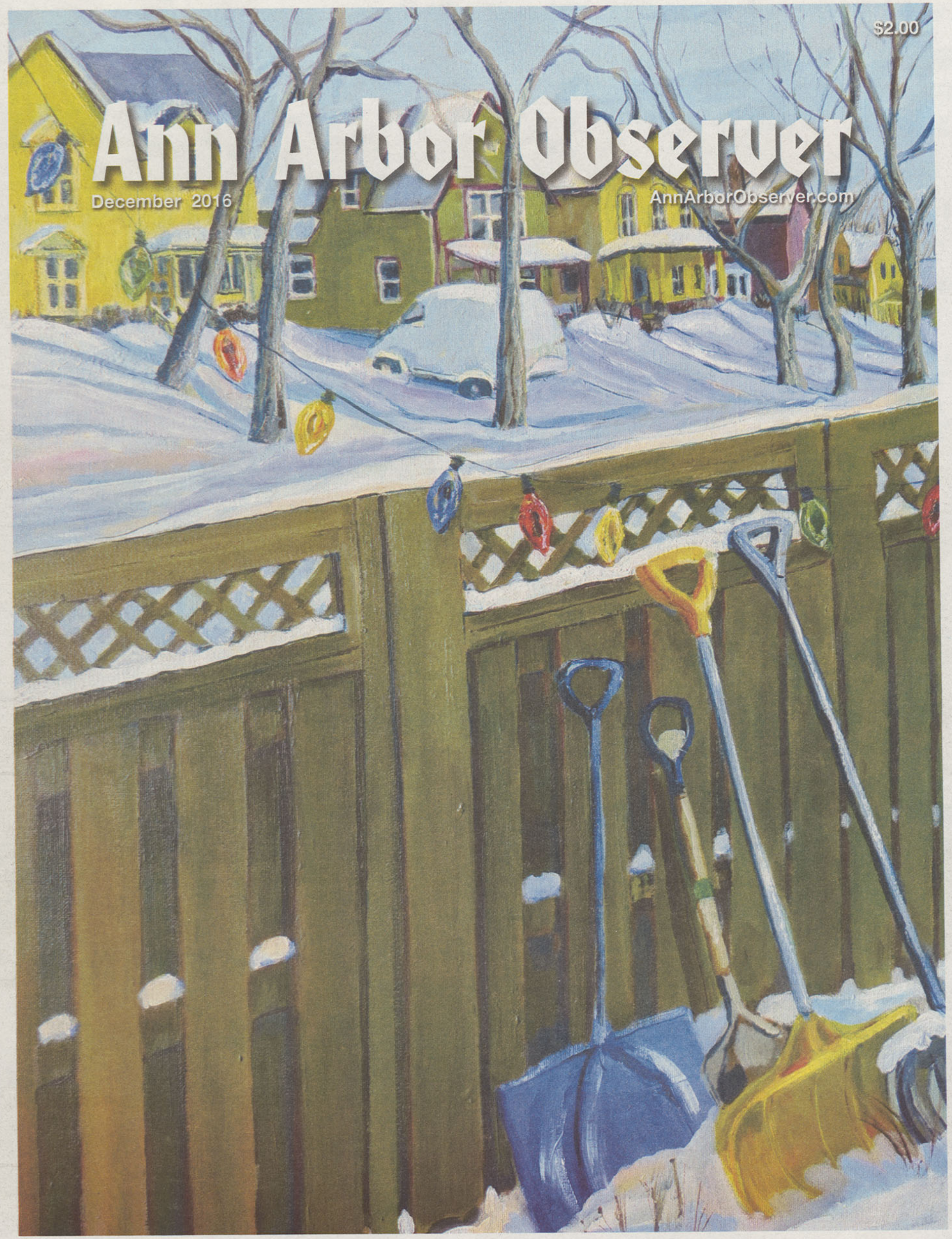

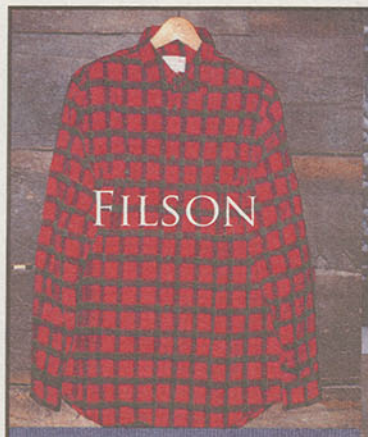

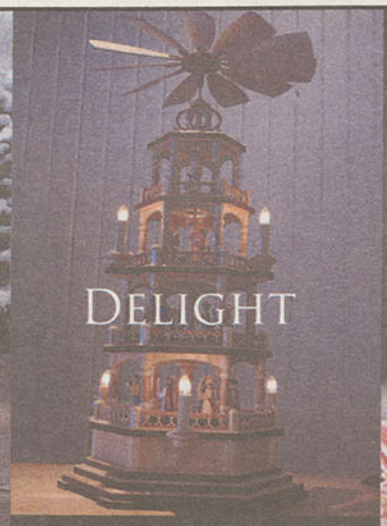

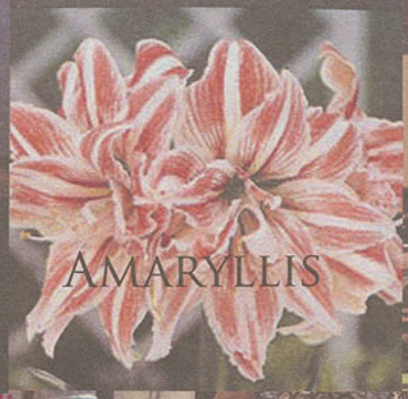

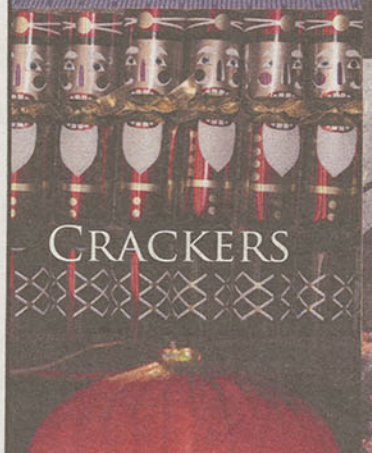

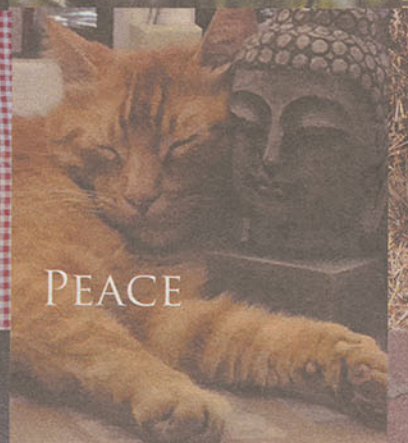

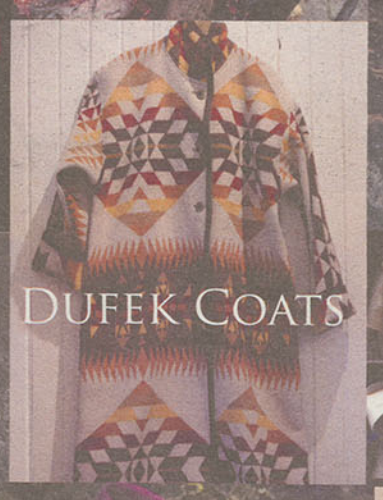

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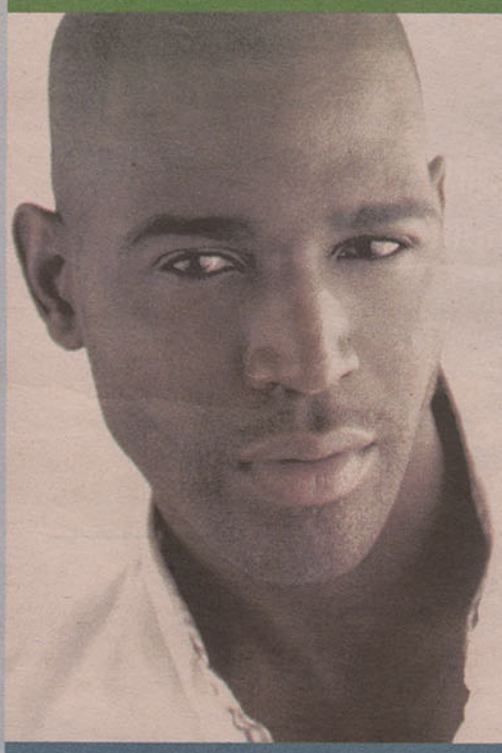

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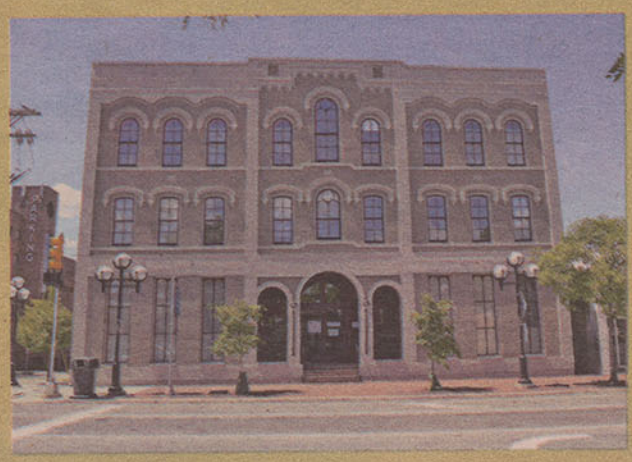

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Ann Arbor Observer

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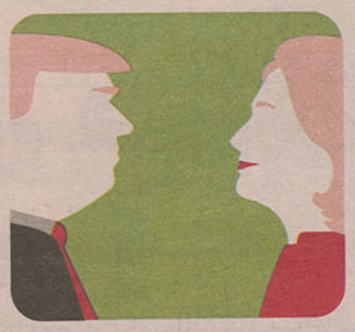
UpFront

We voted: "In real estate it's location, location, location," veteran political reporter Tim Skubick told the Washtenaw Economic Club on November 10. "In politics it's turnout, turnout, turnout."

In a talk just days after Donald Trump's upset presidential victory, Skubick ran the numbers: Trump got 151,000 more votes than Mitt Romney did in Michigan in 2012, while Hillary Clinton trailed Barack Obama's total by 230,000—enough to turn Obama's 54–44 percent triumph into a virtual tie. Though the outcome was still not official as the Observer went to press, Trump held a slim 11,000-vote lead.



Just don't blame Ann Arbor: city voters turned out in force for the first woman nominated by a major political party. Clinton won every precinct and got 86 percent of the vote.

Clinton also carried every precinct in Chelsea, Dexter, Saline, and Ypsilanti, and the townships of Ann Arbor, Pittsfield, Scio, and Ypsilanti. As he did nationwide, Trump did better in rural areas, winning most or all precincts in ten outlying townships. Still, Clinton rolled up 68 percent of the county vote.

Libertarian Gary Johnson picked up 3 percent and the Green Party's Jill Stein 1 percent—leaving just 28 percent for Trump. County clerk Larry Kestenbaum calls it the worst showing by a Republican nominee in the county "in at least a century and probably ever."

Playing defense: In his early years at U-M, men's basketball coach John Beilein had a reputation as an offensive genius, though perhaps a bit inflexible in his ideas. That image loosened up in 2010 when he hired two young assistants, Bacari Alexander and LaVall Jordan, who brought the pick-and-roll playground game back to Crisler Center. Now Beilein is rethinking his defensive strategy as well.

After Jordan and Alexander took head coaching jobs in the spring, Beilein hired Saddi Washington from Oakland University and Billy Donlon, ex–head coach at Wright State. Donlon is known as an advocate of the "pack line," a strategy quite at odds with Beilein's preferences in man-to-man defense.

In a typical man defense, the off-ball defenders pressure their players and deny perimeter passing lanes. In the pack line, defenders instead sag into a radius around the basket, protecting the paint and forcing shots from the perimeter. Compared to Beilein, Donlon also has been much less concerned about defensive fouls.

But after the Wolverines finished 168th in defensive efficiency last year, Beilein is calling Donlon his "defensive coordinator." "Some guys didn't average two fouls a game, so that's a little bit too cautious," he told the media in a pre-season press conference. "Somehow we've got to take Bill's defense where they fouled more, and still stay out of the one-and-one and still keep our best players on the floor." As the season started, Michigan was surrendering more free throws than in the past but also getting to the foul line more often.

The last two years Michigan went into the season with plenty of talent and high expectations, only to underperform after key players (Caris LeVert, Spike Albrecht) were injured. With LeVert headed to the NBA and Albrecht trying a fifth year at Purdue, most experts are picking the Wolverines to place somewhere between seventh and ninth in the fourteen-team Big Ten. That may be too pessimistic.

Returning forward Zak Irvin and guards Derrick Walton Jr. and Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman (supported by frosh Xavier Simpson, Ohio's 2015–2016 player of the year) give Michigan a solid perimeter core. Duncan Robinson returns at forward, but he is being pushed by sophmore DJ Wilson. In Michigan's first two games, Wilson was the best player on the floor. DJ Wilson, last year more of a finesse guy or outside shooter, has come back ready to mix it up.

Michigan's fortunes, though, may turn on the center position. Mark Donnal has improved on the defensive boards, and German import Moritz Wagner gives U-M a potential offensive force in the middle. Add 7' frosh Jon Tekse, and Beilein has fifteen fouls to play with. While Michigan is unlikely to win the conference (Wisconsin will), it will find its way into the to the NCAA tournament and will be a tough out.

Online Pulp: Culture enthusiasts missing the arts and entertainment coverage once provided by the *Ann Arbor News* are welcoming *Pulp,* an online publication (pulp.aadl.org) produced by the Ann Arbor District Library. It posts upbeat previews, reviews, interviews, and up-to-date cultural and event news—whether it's the Young People's Theater's production of "Crazy for You" or a talk by acclaimed author Jonathan Safran Foer at Rackham Auditorium. Contributors include library staff and paid freelancers—among them Jenn McKee, chief entertainment writer for the *News* before MLive effectively abandoned local arts coverage.

Navigating *Pulp* is pretty straightforward. Anyone can surf its articles, and registered users can post comments, pitch ideas, and offer material for review by a six-person staff team.

AADL deputy director Eli Neiburger says the idea grew out of staff discussions about how to provide more arts coverage. A March 2016 survey found that even before any formal promotional campaign had begun, 18 percent of library users were aware of *Pulp.* The library has since done some advertising—including on buses—and feedback from arts organizations has been positive. But *Pulp* is just starting to build its audience: in October, it delivered only about 3,700 page views.

Cold-weather rinks: If Mother Nature chills out, free outdoor skating will return to Allmendinger, Burns, and Northside parks this winter. The three natural rinks reopened last year after a fifteen-year closure, delighting many Ann Arborites. Judi, a fifty-eight-year-old woman who lives near Northside, recalls that despite recent back surgery, "I was so excited I got out there once—even with my pain."

Parks operations planned to lay the rinks' infrastructure in November—but manager Colin Smith warns "any opening date is entirely weather dependent." He explains that rinks will be flooded only when the forecast predicts a "below-freezing span of at least ten consecutive days." Last winter's warm weather meant the rinks were open only from early January to early March—and not every day, either. (Staffers inspect the rinks every day and put out "closed" signs if it's too warm.)

The outdoor rinks have a long history but lost funding during budget cuts in the early 2000s. Last year, council appropriated $60,000 on a trial basis and brought them back this year after getting positive feedback from skaters.

For Judi (who didn't want her last name used), the timing was serendipitous. As a young, single woman she used to skate mornings at Northside after working a night shift. She left the city for many years; now divorced, she moved back to her old neighborhood just in time to hit the ice again—and, she says, make new friends with other skaters. She adds hopefully, "It's supposed to be colder this year." ■

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Election Aftermath

As Michigan turned red, Ann Arbor stayed blue.

President Obama's appearance at a get-out-the-vote rally the day before the election was a thrill for his many Ann Arbor supporters. It was also shocking: the Hillary Clinton campaign wouldn't have sent its most valuable surrogate unless it was worried about losing the state. Clinton's daughter Chelsea accompanied the president, while the candidate herself made a stop in Grand Rapids.

With some help from the president, Ann Arbor stayed blue—Clinton rolled up huge margins in the city and Washtenaw County (see Up Front, p. 11). But Donald Trump finished slightly ahead in Michigan—part of a last-minute surge in the Rust Belt that has him headed for victory in the Electoral College (though not the popular vote). And while there were no upsets here, Trump voters did tinge some nearby areas purple.

BRYAN FULLER

President Obama's election-day rally at the U-M helped Hillary Clinton score a lopsided victory in Ann Arbor—but it wasn't enough to overcome Donald Trump's strong showing outstate.

Dingell—and Wahlberg: When Republican state legislators redrew the boundaries of the Twelfth Congressional District after the 2000 census, they segregated as many Democrats as possible into a narrow band stretching from Detroit to Ann Arbor. Trump had no coattails here—Debbie Dingell, elected to succeed her legendary husband John two years ago, was returned with nearly two-thirds of the vote.

The Seventh, wrapping around the city on three sides, was held by Republicans from its creation in 1993 until Democrat Mark Schauer unseated Tim Wahlberg in 2010. Wahlberg took it back in 2012, but the Dems saw a chance to reclaim the district this year; a poll last spring showed former Saline mayor Gretchen Driskell leading, and she raised more than $2 million. But while Driskell won in Washtenaw County, Trump's rural surge in carried Wahlberg to a solid 55 percent to 40 percent win.

Though supporters justified longer city council terms by pointing to bigger turnouts in November general elections, the main effect will likely be to make the general election even less relevant.

State house stasis: Democrats effortlessly held onto Ann Arbor's two seats in the state house, with Adam Zemke beating longshot challenger Bob Baird 69–31. But Baird, a cheerful and surprisingly vigorous campaigner, did far better than Sam Bissell. A placeholder candidate with no discernible campaign, Bissell was crushed by Yousef Rabhi in the very urban Fifty-Third District, 80–16.

In the partly rural Fifty-Second District, Democrat Donna Lasinski had a tougher time than expected, beating Republican Randy Clark by a much narrower 52–45 margin. And while the three victories preserved the local status quo, Democrats' hopes of taking control of the state house were dashed—the GOP retained its sixteen-vote majority.

August, not November: Despite well-organized opposition, Ann Arbor voted 55–45 to extend city council terms from two to four years. Though supporters justified the change by pointing to bigger turnouts in November general elections, the main effect will likely be to make the general election even less relevant. Because the amendment eliminates odd-year elections but retains party labels, it should make Democratic council candidates even more secure in November. This means the real contests will still be in the intraparty August primaries, when many voters are out of town.

What's in a name? The massive turnout for Clinton also boosted Fifth Ward Democrat Chuck Warpehoski. Though independent David Silkworth reportedly spent $20,000 to Warpehoski's $3,000, the incumbent rolled up a crushing 74–26 margin.

In a high-turnout presidential race, however, even a small percentage represents a lot of votes. A total of 3,382 Ward Five residents marked ballots for Silkworth—958 more than did the same for Warpehoski in August's primary. So Silkworth may yet mount a serious challenge if he chooses to run in the future as a Democrat.

That may happen. "There are a lot of issues that are important to me that I do not feel are getting adequate attention or proper representation from either of my current council members in Ward 5," Silkworth emails. "Therefore, I am currently considering my options and weighing my next steps."

County challenges come up short: Ken Magee mounted the first serious Republican campaign for county office in more than a decade, running for sheriff on a pledge to do more about the heroin epidemic. The outcome confirmed why such races have become rare: Democratic incumbent Jerry Clayton won easily, 69–30 percent.

Though Democratic prosecutor Brian Mackie had no ballot opposition, he was the target of an organized write-in campaign. In an interview before the election, D'Real Graham promised to "pursue reparations for families affected by court decisions and erect headstones for people killed by law enforcement officers in Washtenaw County." But Graham, who works for a local nonprofit, is not a lawyer—which meant, Mackie pointed out, that he couldn't serve even if he won. That proved moot: Mackie got a crushing 97 percent of the vote.

Roads not rail: County voters approved all three millages on the ballot, though only two passed. With well-funded citizen support, a county tax for roads and bike paths cruised home with 71 percent of the vote. A millage supporting the county's department of veterans affairs did even better, winning 74 percent of the vote.

But while the Regional Transit Authority millage passed here with 56 percent approval, it failed narrowly in the

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Friday, December 2nd 6–10pm
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MERRY TUBACHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec 4th, 2pm
Ann Arbor Farmers Market. This annual event is performed all over the US where tuba and euphonium players of all ages gather to perform traditional Christmas carols. Audience participation encouraged!

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Santa is working with Food Gatherers this year to help feed our neighbors in need. Consider bringing a non-perishable food item with you when you visit Santa! All items will benefit Food Gatherers, the food rescue and food bank program serving Washtenaw County, and will be distributed to local meal programs and food pantries this holiday season.

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Holiday Hours for the Shops begin on Friday, Nov. 25:

M -Th* 10am - 7pm | **F** 10am - 8pm | **SAT** 9am - 6pm | **SUN** 11am - 6pm

four-county region. If it had passed, it would have funded a long list of services, including commuter trains between Ann Arbor and Detroit. The state had already spent more than $12 million to buy and refurbish a small fleet of railcars for the service, but with no other funding in sight, it looks like they may never carry passengers.

All in the families: It's no surprise that commercial real estate broker Bill Milliken Jr. topped a ten-way race to win a seat on Washtenaw Community College's Board of Trustees. The son of a former governor backed his high-profile name with a high-powered campaign; his scores of endorsers included the college's unions.

But that Angela Davis won a seat was a huge surprise. The owner of her own jewelry business, Davis ran a very low-profile campaign. Her Facebook page is all but empty and her Kickstarter fundraiser shows just one contribution of $100 towards her goal of $1,000—and that from a relative. But the daughter of current trustee Diana McKnight-Morton clearly had other advantages—including the support of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party, which also backed runner-up Anna Zinkel.

Slates succeed: Both the school and the library board slates won big. School slate founder Hunter Van Valkenburgh couldn't catch incumbent Simone Lightfoot, but fellow insurgents Jeff Gaynor and Harmony Mitchell both earned seats, ousting long-time board president Deb Mexicotte in the process.

Voters elected all four members of the library slate—Victoria Green, Colleen Sherman, Linh Song, and Jamie Vander Broek. But while the school board slate was driven by grievances with the current board, the library group strongly supports its current direction. With their election, look for renewed effort to build a new downtown library, possibly with a millage.

Weiser wins: After an unsuccessful try in 2014, Ron Weiser rode Trump's statewide coattails onto the U-M Board of Regents. On his campaign website the founder of McKinley Properties promised "to use my business experience to straighten U of M's books and reduce the burden on the taxpayers of Michigan. And I'll make sure that the laws passed by the people are respected by the University!"

School slate founder Hunter Van Valkenburgh couldn't catch incumbent Simone Lightfoot, but fellow insurgents Jeff Gaynor and Harmony Mitchell both earned seats, ousting long-time board president Deb Mexicotte in the process.

Weiser is likely to be a strong voice on the board for curbing costs—if the longtime Republican Party fundraiser has time for it. George W. Bush rewarded his efforts by making him ambassador to Slovakia, and his role as one of six vice chairs of the Trump Victory Committee leaves him well positioned for an even bigger prize this time.

Blanket Couture

"Pendleton is not necessarily thrilled that I'm making these coats," says Sheri Dufek.

Twenty-six years ago, Dufek was working as a registered nurse at the U-M Health System. Her job managing University Hospital's operating and recovery rooms often sent her on icy walks between buildings. To keep warm, she stitched a full-length coat from a Pendleton blanket she had just bought—brown with red, orange, and black Native American–inspired designs woven into it. She's since made about 380 of the exquisitely tailored, one-of-a-kind, custom-

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Dufek with fans of her Pendleton-blanket coats at Downtown Home & Garden, including owner Kelly Vore (in blue) and founder Mark Hodesh (in orange).

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fitted coats. Now retired from nursing, she's become a full-time coat maker. She buys Pendleton blankets at full retail price, about $250, and sells finished coats for around $550.

Pendleton Woolen Mills, founded by Thomas Kay in 1863 and still in the family, is "a very conservative company," says Dufek. "I'm not sure I understand" why it disapproves of her work.

"I asked them once, and they said, 'We don't really like what you do.' I said, 'Why not? I'm just interested?' They said, 'People will think we made them.' "

Though the occasional customer will buy a coat off the rack at DTH&G, most people end up in her home workshop, looking at an array of blankets spread out on her floor.

She answered—and at that point, they already knew—that she bends over backwards to respect the integrity of the design, and though she never removes the Pendleton tags and gives Pendleton full credit for the blanket, she also adds her own labels to show the design and craftsmanship is her own. "But," she concedes, "I'm not the only person doing this. Other people make Pendleton coats that look a wreck, with patch pockets that don't even match the pattern."

About five years ago, Mark Hodesh, then owner of Downtown Home & Garden, invited her to make a small display in his store, and he hung his own Sheri Dufek Pendleton coat in the window. That is how many customers find her, along with Facebook and word of mouth.

"I'm not bragging," she says, "but I'm only trying to prepare people when I tell them that when they walk down the street, they are going to attract attention." She says that when she's out in one of her own coats, cars slow down to follow her.

She still wears her original coat, though she now has half a dozen others. Her coats are unlined, but the dense Pendleton weave and her overlapping "half-French" seams keep out the wind. The natural lanolin in the wool keeps out the rain and snow.

She keeps about thirty Pendleton blankets in her inventory: classic solids with striped borders (aka Hudson Bay blankets), colorful Southwestern motifs that Pendleton manufactured in the nineteenth century to trade with Indian tribes, and modern designs by contemporary Native American artists. Though the occasional customer will buy a coat off the rack at DTH&G, most people end up in her home workshop, looking at an array of blankets spread out on her floor.

She says Hodesh seemed to surprise himself when he chose the vivid red,

MARK BIALEK

Greg Dill withdrew his name from the county's first search for an administrator—only to land the job the second time around.

black, and white Navajo "water" blanket. "It was a little outside his comfort zone," she says. Hodesh reports he recently wore it in New York, "working our way through Upper East Side museums. One of those elegant, slim, Fifth Avenue women dripping with expensive jewelry leaned in and whispered, 'Honey, that coat is seriously beautiful.' "

Dufek is a famous name in Ann Arbor sports history. Sheri is married to Bill Dufek, an offensive lineman for Michigan in the 1970s. His older brother Donny played defense for U-M and then for the NFL's Seattle Seahawks (Their father, Don, also played for Michigan.) Sheri's family also played a part in sports history—her father, Guy Reiff, played professional baseball before becoming a U-M professor of kinesiology.

Sheri and Bill have known each other since seventh grade. "We used to play Crack the Whip on the Burns Park skating rink, and I used to always hold his hand," she says. "He was so powerful, I wanted to be holding his hand, because unless he was holding onto you when he cracked the whip, you'd go flying."

Bill, of course, owns a coat himself, and has brought her a lot of business. "At the Notre Dame–Michigan game a few years ago, he called me and said, 'A guy wants to buy my coat off me. What do I do?' I said, 'Sell it. I'll make you another.' He said, 'But what do I come home in?' " He decided to keep the coat.

Dill's Moment

It took nearly two years, but the county finally has a new administrator.

In February 2016, the county board of commissioners appointed county infrastructure boss Greg Dill as interim administrator. Last month, it gave him the job permanently.

The appointment ended a messy, drawn-out search process that began in February 2015, when administrator Verna McDaniel told the board she was stepping down. After a long search and much disagreement, the board appeared poised to hire parks director Bob Tetens back in May—only to cancel the final vote when a straw poll indicated that he would have had only a one-vote majority. (Several board members argued that an administrator needed stronger backing to succeed.)

Dill inherits a host of problems, from mental health funding to the Gelman groundwater contamination. Even so, he's got it easier than his predecessor: Verna McDaniel was forced to cut annual spending by more than $30 million.

A new search was launched, and Tetens again emerged as a finalist, but by then—impressed by his performance as the interim chief—the board had fallen in love with Dill. Even commissioner Kent Martinez-Kratz, who supported Tetens in May's straw poll, says Dill has "done a fine job. The period he was administrator ran smoothly and without difficulty."

Dill is "not a dramatic person," observes commissioner Andy LaBarre. "He's a guy who tries to find solutions that work." In his final interview in October, he impressed commissioners with specifics of what he hopes to accomplish, from reexamining investment funds to holding meetings in communities around the county. He also promised to quickly fill three key positions: deputy administrator, public defender, and his own old job, infrastructure management.

Dill inherits a host of problems, from a squeezed-to-the-bone mental health system to the Gelman groundwater contamination. Even so, he's got it easier than his predecessor: during the Great Recession, McDaniel was forced to cut annual spending by more than $30

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million. "We are starting to get a little healthy," he says. "No new money, but we're starting to see some sustainability in our budget."

Expecting "flat" growth for some time to come, he's been meeting monthly with Ann Arbor city administrator Howard Lazarus to discuss potential cost-saving measures, including consolidating services. He'd also like to explore more partnerships with both nonprofits and businesses, along the lines of the recently formed Economic Development Coordinating Committee.

Dill grew up in Flint, the oldest of four kids raised by a single mom who worked the assembly line. Active in high school student government and sports, he graduated from Eastern with a business degree; his first job out of college was as a maintenance supervisor at the former Rouge Steel. From there, he moved into various managerial jobs, first at Eastern (where he added an MBA) and later as director of facilities at Lincoln Consolidated Schools. That led to a similar position with the county in 2002; he later worked with sheriff Jerry Clayton, who praises his sensitivity in handling the thorny negotiations over the cost of the "contract policing" the sheriff provides for cities and townships. "He understood that relationships with people are important," says Clayton.

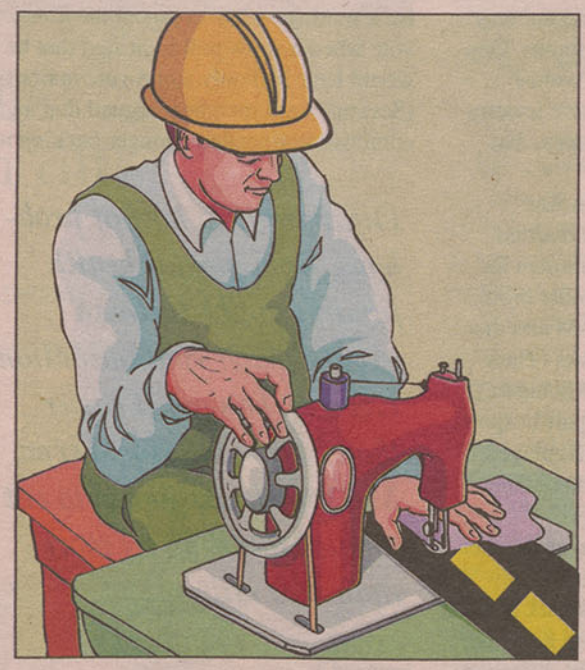
Dill's one publicized setback happened when he left the county in 2007 to take an administrative position with the Oak Park schools. After he paid to retile the floor and install lockers in a school gym where he showered after running, a couple of board members complained that he had created his own "luxurious gym." He was cleared of wrongdoing by the Oak Park police and then, again, by Clayton, when he hired him.

He and his wife, Debra Dill, a U-M employee, live in Ypsilanti Township near Ford Lake. Their oldest daughter goes to Michigan State, the younger to Lincoln High. "My wife and I have loved being in this area," he says.

Full of praise for Tetens, who now reports to him, Dill appreciates the quirkiness of his path to the county's top job: the commissioners chose him as interim because he had withdrawn his name from the search the first time around (he applied the second time).

Says county prosecutor Brian Mackie, "Mostly he made his own luck, just by proving he was up to the task."

Life in Ann Arbor — Tim Athan



Repairs to Textile Road

question corner

Q: As we walked near the corner of Huron and Fifth one Saturday, we heard screaming sirens coming down Huron. Around the corner came two blue U-M buses full of very large young men, escorted by a pair of police motorcycles—the football team, we surmised, on its way from the Graduate Hotel to the stadium. Who pays for that?

A. The Michigan State Police (MSP) escort the visiting team, while the U-M police escort our own very large young men.

The MSP accept such work requests only if they are deemed a matter of public safety. U-M football fans can get rambunctious, so this qualifies. (Similar arrangements are made with the MSP when politicians require escorts.) The MSP typically provide two troopers, billed at their overtime rate for the time it takes to escort the visitors from the hotel to the stadium and return.

Though the AAPD doesn't escort the U-M team, it takes on many additional tasks on game days, including coordinating traffic control with the U-M police department and providing officers to direct vehicles and pedestrians near the stadium. All those expenses are passed on to the U-M athletic department. For September's four home games, the bills totaled just over $213,000.

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Outside

by Bob & Jorja Feldman

Liberty St. Murals

Seven sightings in a short stroll

How many downtown murals can you see in their entirety without leaving Liberty St.? Head east from Ashley, and right off the bat you'll find *Peacework Through Art,* head-and-shoulder portraits of twelve local veterans on the alley sidewall of the Alley Bar. Sponsored by the now defunct Michigan Peaceworks, it was painted by Mary Thiefels and John Vance of Tree Town Murals and includes a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.

A sampler of Liberty St. styles: realistic portraits of veterans in Peacework Through Art by the Alley Bar, the free-floating Shur! mural, at Pieology, and Pangea Piercing's fantastical "mastafish."

Two blocks up toward campus, a piece of pure fantasy adorns the alley sidewall of Pangea Piercing at 211 Liberty. Ezra Livingston's mural is dominated by fanciful imaginary creatures almost bursting off the wall—the Pangea website calls them "mastafish" and describes them as half mastodon, half fish.

Walk two more blocks and you'll find a stenciled row of monochromatic trees punctuated with small stars and birds in flight on the sidewall of Orchid Lane Warehouse at 421 Liberty. Cate Tinsley of Olive Leaf Stencils said that the thought behind the trees was to "produce a calming effect" while also being a cost-effective way of repelling graffiti. The driving force behind this mural, and many similar ones around town, was Ann Arborite graffiti fighter Rebecca Arends.

Graffiti rules at "Graffiti Alley" next to the FedEx Office at 505 E. Liberty. Graffiti Alley came about when a mural was vandalized with whitewash followed by graffiti, which has grown and changed over the years. But some of the original mural has survived: the ceiling, painted night-sky blue with gold stars and a written message, and a strip of art running along the walls adjacent to the ceiling. This includes a fanciful lion head with a streaming ribbon on which is painted "Tombeau Hoc Fecit"—Katherine Tombeau Cost was the mural artist.

Approaching State, the sidewall of Salads UP is painted in a design of pastel triangles and diamonds. Nearby, two hot air balloons and floating cubes enliven a large predominantly red, white, and blue mural on the alley sidewall of Pieology. This uplifting art, known as the Shur! mural, is another work by Mary Thiefels, working with graphic designer Danijel Matanic and about fifty volunteers, who created it following a "paint-by-numbers concept."

Thiefels intended shur! to complement the town's most famous mural, on the Liberty sidewall of Potbelly sandwiches at the corner of State. Painted by Richard Wolk when David's Books had the building's upper floor, it features head and shoulder portraits of Woody Allen, Edgar Allan Poe, Hermann Hesse, Franz Kafka, and Anaïs Nin. As we photographed it, one person stopped to rattle off the names of all the portraits, another to take a selfie, but most people just pushed on by.

What an artful afternoon! Seven sightings, some significant, all visible during a short stroll down Liberty.

PHOTOS: BOB & JORJA FELDMAN

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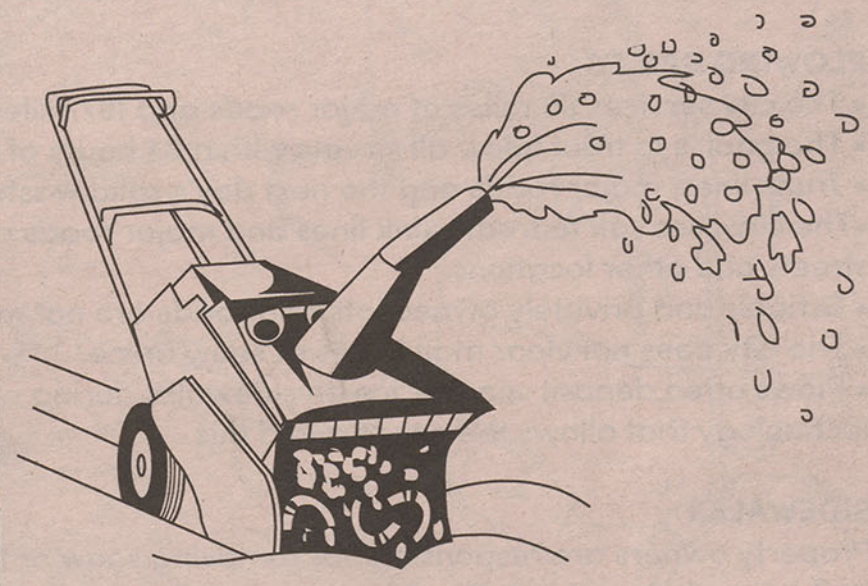

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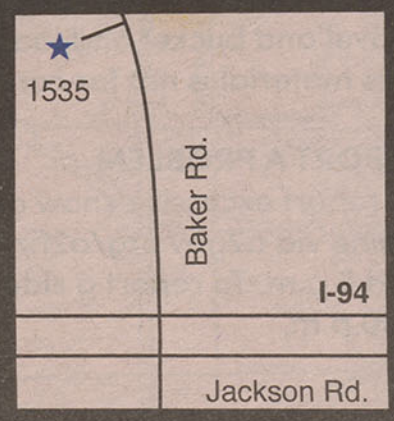

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The goal is to treat all streets within 24 hours of an average 4" snowstorm

The City of Ann Arbor's winter road maintenance objective is to provide surfaces that are safe to use at reasonable speeds. This does not always mean surfaces are cleared to bare pavement.

PLOWING BASICS

- The city services 98 miles of major roads and 197 miles of residential streets.
- The goal is to treat/plow all streets within 24 hours of an "average" 4-inch snowstorm.
- Trunk lines, major roads and the next day's solid waste routes are plowed first.
- The city uses salt to treat trunk lines and major roads and a 95/5 percent sand/salt mixture for residential streets and other locations.
- Schools and privately owned lots and roads are not maintained by city crews.
- The city does not clear mail boxes of snow or ice.
- Plows often deposit snow or ice on sidewalks during normal plowing. Unfortunately there is no economical technology that allows the city to avoid this.

SIDEWALKS

Property owners are responsible for removing snow or treating ice on their adjacent sidewalks, crosswalk ramps and concrete bus stops. Property owners will receive only one warning, per season, before incurring fines.

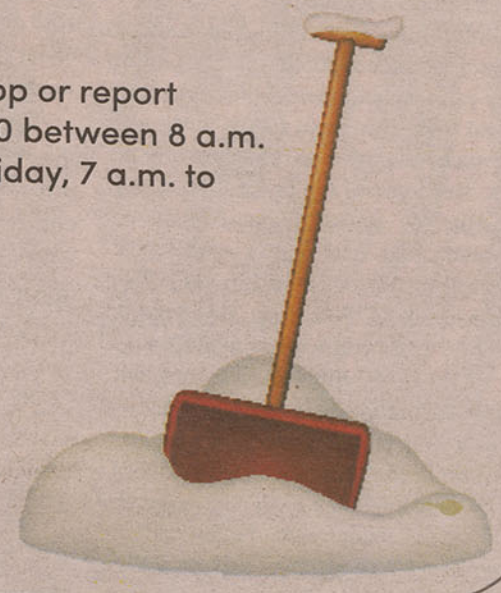
- Residential Property: required to remove any accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch from adjacent sidewalks, crosswalk ramps and bus stops within 24 hours from time snowfall ceases. Also, within 18 hours after any ice forms, the owner shall treat ice with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery.
- Non-residential Property: Any snow/ice that has accumulated by 6 a.m. must be removed from adjacent sidewalks, crosswalk ramps and bus stops before noon on the same day.

FREE SAND/SALT MIXTURE TO RESIDENTS

The city provides residents with up to 5 gallons of a sand/salt mixture, per visit to 721 N. Main St. or one of six park locations: Allmendinger, Buhr, Burns, Leslie and Veterans Memorial. Residents should bring their own shovel and bucket and load material themselves from the marked pile.
This material is not for contractors. For more information, visit a2gov.org/snow.

REPORT A PROBLEM

To report excessive snow or ice on a street or sidewalk, please use the A2 Fix It app or report online via a2gov.org/a2fixit. To report a street by phone, please call 734.794.6320 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. To report a sidewalk by phone, please call 734.794.6942 Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



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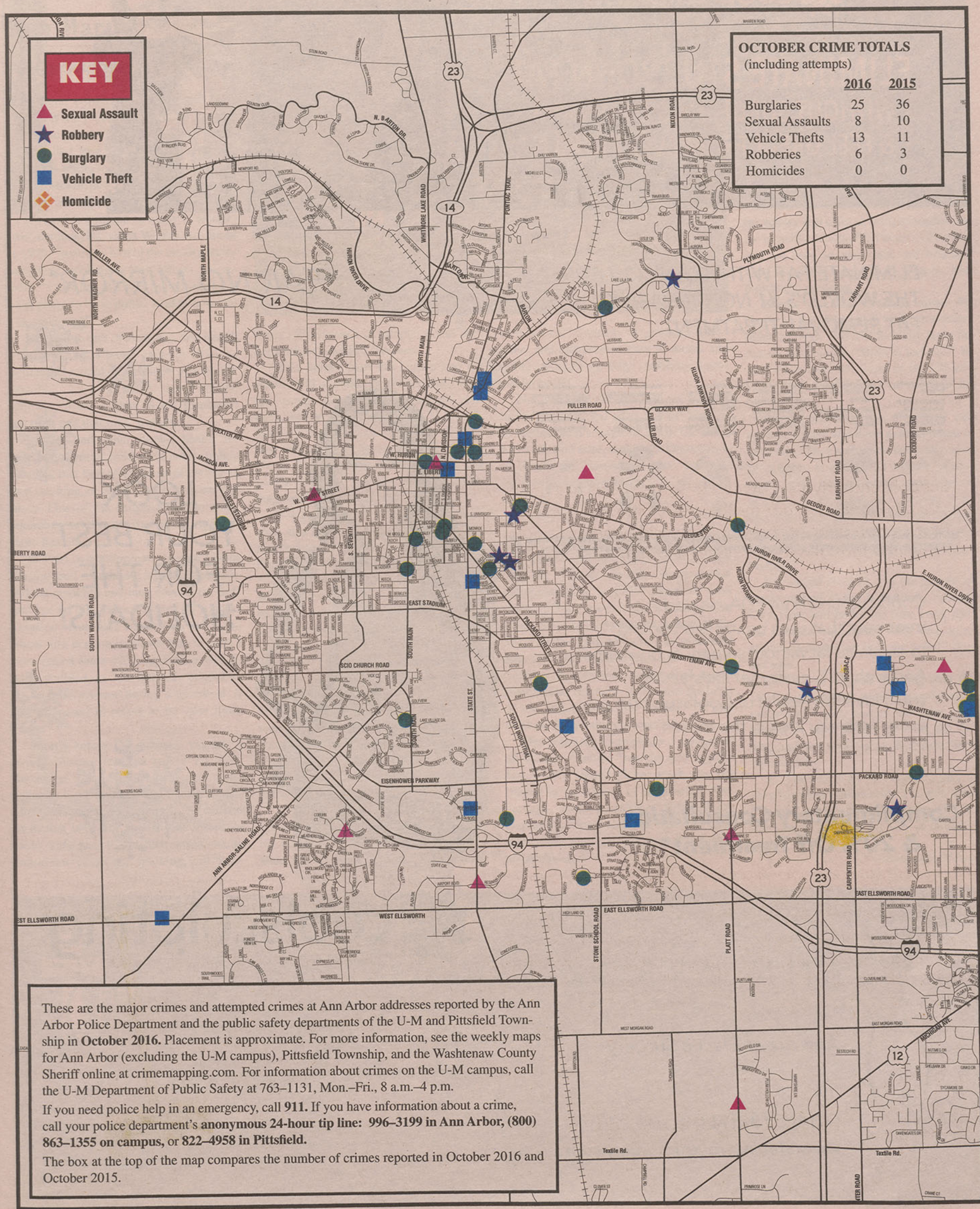
CrimeMap



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **October 2016.** Placement is approximate. For more information, see the weekly maps for Ann Arbor (excluding the U-M campus), Pittsfield Township, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff online at crimemapping.com. For information about crimes on the U-M campus, call the U-M Department of Public Safety at 763–1131, Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **822–4958 in Pittsfield.**

The box at the top of the map compares the number of crimes reported in October 2016 and October 2015.

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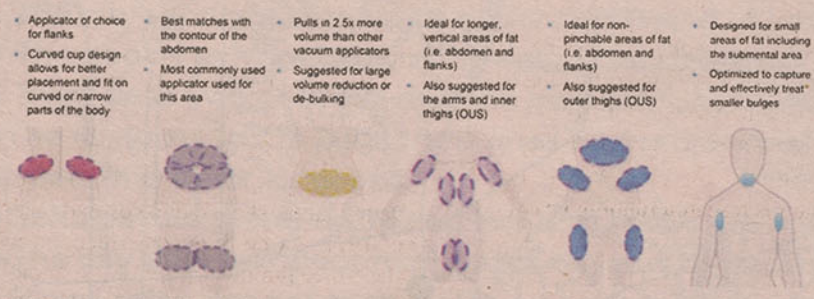
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Ken Warner

Anti-smoking champion

When U-M public health prof Ken Warner was in college, he smoked so much that a Dartmouth classmate called him "Nicotine." As he approaches retirement, Warner, sixty-nine, is world-renowned as an anti-smoking researcher and advocate.

It's hard to imagine on today's "smoke-free" campus, but when Warner was hired in 1972, "probably half of the faculty members were smoking in their offices," he recalls. "I just felt this was hypocritical—if I am going to be in public health, how can I be smoking?"

He tried to quit three times, and failed. Finally, during a poker game in 1974, he deliberately smoked so much that he felt "terrible … I went home, threw out the ashtrays, made a New Year's resolution out of it, and that time, it stuck."

Warner and other public health researchers went on to identify public policy changes that helped millions of people to quit smoking, or never take it up in the first place. One of the simplest was to make cigarettes more expensive by taxing them more heavily.

In 1964, when Surgeon General Luther Terry issued a landmark report definitively linking smoking and lung cancer, the federal tax on cigarettes was just 8¢ a pack. Tobacco companies wielded so much political and economic power that it hadn't been raised since 1951. In 1982 it was finally doubled, to 16¢, but only temporarily, to raise revenue during a recession. It was supposed to revert to 8¢ after three years.

Shortly before the increase was set to expire, Warner testified before the U.S. Senate on the public health impact if the rollback went through. Presenting a just-published paper he'd cowritten, he warned them that if it did, almost half a million more kids and 1.5 million more adults would start or not quit smoking, and "hundreds of thousands of people would die" from tobacco-related illnesses.

Health consequences of smoking
• 500,000 deaths in U.S./year
• 10 million ill/disabled
• 6 million glob aths/year
• > 8 million by
– 75% in de g countries
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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
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"This helped turn the Senate and the whole field of public health around," Warner recalls. Congress cancelled the rollback, and now the tax is about $1 a pack. While Warner stresses that "no one does that sort of thing by himself," colleague David Mendez credits him as "the first person who saw taxation as a way to reduce smoking prevalence."

This past September, Warner was honored at a major School of Public Health symposium, "Celebrating Progress in Population Health and Tobacco Control." After Warner's talk, a young woman asked whether taxing cigarettes unfairly punish the poor, who remain heavy smokers and spend more of their income on tobacco.

Warner agreed that fairness is "a real downside" to higher taxes. He suggested anti-smoking initiatives could be directed toward poorer populations, and spoke of his own nephew, struggling to find work, who could not quit. But while admitting there is "no easy answer," he argued emphatically that "raising the price of cigarettes is the single most important thing you can do" to keep people from smoking.

"Ken's research is critical in two respects," says Matt Myers, the president of the nonprofit Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. First, "it helped find which policies to focus on." Second, "it provided qualitative and quantitative data to media and public officials on why" smoking harms public health.

Not everyone cheered him on. He still has a copy of a 1981 letter that the late Jesse Helms, then senator of North Carolina, a key tobacco state, sent to the Department of Health and Human Services, demanding that his research funding be cut off. (It wasn't.)

The World Bank was more appreciative. In the early 2000s, when the World Health Organization was negotiating a global treaty to limit smoking, Warner was asked to comment on many of the presentations on behalf of the World Bank. Time and again, he presented data from the bank's book on smoking, *Curbing the Epidemic*, which drew extensively on his research. It "became the bible of the negotiations," he recalls. "It said what works in tobacco control."

The resulting Framework Convention on Tobacco Control "was the most rapidly and widely signed global treaty on any subject in the history of the world," Warner says. "And it's working!" Before it was concluded, "total cigarette sales globally were rising steadily," he says. "Now they are declining."

When Warner arrived at Michigan, SPH taught only grad students. In 2009, he launched its first course for undergrads.

He enjoys teaching undergrads, who he considers the "proverbial tabula rasa, the blank slate. They're very bright and eager to learn. But they're searching for what to do with their lives, and that often makes a course like my Introduction to Public Health very relevant."

His course proved so popular that more followed, and next year, for the first time, the school will offer an undergraduate major in public health. "If [Warner's] course had not been so successful, we wouldn't have the major," says Gary Harper, who directs the program.

Warner is now winding down his coursework and research while on a retirement furlough, and will formally leave the faculty next spring. "Want to feel old?" he asks. After forty-five years on the job, he's taught the grandchildren of some of his first students.

Warner and his wife, Pat, have two grown children and three grandchildren of their own. They met when she took one of his courses as a master's student, started dating after she graduated, and married in 1977. As he fought the nicotine wars, she rose through the U-M administration, eventually heading Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital.

Pat retired in 2012, and the couple recently moved to her hometown, Traverse City. How will he fill his time away from the tobacco battlefield? "My two recreational pleasures are golf and poker," Warner says.

Though he stopped smoking after that 1974 game, Warner never stopped playing poker—he's been part of the same game almost as long as he's been on the faculty, and met many of his best Ann Arbor friends there.

In Traverse City, he says, "I play in very low-cost tournaments a couple times a week." And "whenever I'm in Ann Arbor I try to schedule my stay to include a game."

—Benjamin Meyers

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Feeding Creativity

Tyler Soo Hoo's food cart art

It's after midnight, and in front of the Vault of Midnight a young man tends a small island of a hot dog stand with a gas grill, cold storage boxes, and a large umbrella. It is a cold late autumn night in Ann Arbor. The wind scoops and mounds locust leaves around his feet. With a smiling face, dark skin, and frizzy hair that jets atop a buttoned-up dark gray ankle-length coat, he bops and dips to the velvet funk techno sounds Bluetoothed to a nearby speaker, his hands in the coat's pockets.

A few hours ago, Main St. was full of places to eat, but at this hour his cart is the only one still open. He fires up the grill for another victim of late-night munchies. He amiably chats with others waiting as they ask questions about his job, nods at passersby with a mouth-closed grin that goes from ear to ear. And when he has a moment, when the line for food has disappeared into the noise of the streets for now, he takes out a sketch pad, pencil and smudge brush, balances the pad on his knees or on the cart and begins to draw …

Soo Hoo's comic is called Serenity and Decadence and is in the style of an East-meets-West anime with the story propelled by both dialogue and action.

Tyler Soo Hoo, twenty-two, has been tending the Cold Steel Grill for the last two years. His shifts are late, later, and latest. He begins at 11 p.m. and often doesn't wrap up serving dogs, chili, macaroni and cheese, and nachos to ambulatory, if not a little under-the-alcoholic-weather, customers until 3 a.m. Soo Hoo says he's never seen anyone else work an outdoor cart and create art in their spare moments; he thinks it's looked down upon because one should concentrate on one's job. "However," he adds with a little annoyance, in other jobs "apparently you can be on your cell phone a lot and not annoy your boss."

JOHN C. HEIDER

The Huron High grad works the cart throughout the year: in the freezing cold of winter and the broiling heat and storms of summer. Through it all, he jumps constantly from food to art and back, using every spare moment to further his graphic novel.

The Huron High grad works the cart throughout the year: in the freezing cold of winter and the broiling heat and storms of summer. Through it all, he jumps constantly from food to art and back, using every spare moment to further his graphic novel. "I have a problem if I do nothing for too long," he says. "It's not like a busybody thing, but I like to be active, and I can't un-train myself to just be a worker. My mind's constantly going, and if I don't get the art down on paper I might lose it."

Soo Hoo's comic is called *Serenity and Decadence* and is in the style of an East-meets-West anime with the story propelled by both dialogue and action. Some scenes are purposely left open to the reader's interpretation. It's about "how we're evolved in a way, and in another we're not," says Soo Hoo. It also espouses the idea that every man can have superpowers.

"It's based on a guy who can save the day, and he can stop people who have extraordinary powers, but if he stops them, he'll look bad. He does his best to stay out of situations, but he gets pulled in anyway. It's the story of my life."

Soo Hoo's cart customers sometimes notice his sketches. "Sixty percent say, 'That's nice,' but they really don't take the time to look at it," he says. "I've been told by two people that they find my art repulsive, but I ignore that and keep creating. My philosophy is that we're all going to die sometime, and if you don't immerse yourself in art you're going to miss one more story."

Soo Hoo is self-taught. "I think art school's just a joke. I did a single day and realized it's not for me. I just said no. What I was being taught was what I'd

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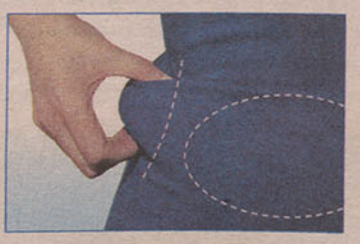

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coolsculpting

already been doing. I thought, 'This isn't worth the student debt.' "

The graphic novel's main character shares the artist's last name, which Soo Hoo finds both ironic and full of potential, because "literally no one with my name has ever done anything in America. So it gives me freedom to create a character with unlimited potentials."

For now, the juggling of food cart and graphic novel five nights a week is an oddly good fit for Soo Hoo's creative temperament. "I find it pretty demanding when I'm creating panels with little dialogue—more so than when I'm waiting on twenty people. Their hot dogs will eventually get done—but following through on my comic takes real dedication."

—John C. Heider

Steinway Philosophy

Is the Kempfs' piano an artifact or an instrument?

Hard-core Ann Arborites know that the historic Kempf House on Division was owned and occupied by music teacher Reuben Kempf and his family, and that the Kempfs' Steinway, manufactured in 1877, is reputed to have been the first grand piano in Ann Arbor. Like many a senior citizen, the piano is still functional but frail due to a chronic condition, in this case, a cracked soundboard.

Like many a senior citizen, the piano is still functional but frail due to a chronic condition, in this case, a cracked soundboard. As you might expect, this condition has a serious effect on the piano's sound.

As you might expect, this condition has a serious effect on the piano's sound.

In its heyday, the piano was a workhorse. When the University of Michigan needed a grand piano for a recital, it borrowed the Kempfs' piano. The massive instrument was turned on its side, divested of its legs, and trundled out the door, typically to University Hall, the forerunner of Hill Auditorium. Reuben Kempf was not even the piano's first owner. He purchased it from a U-M student.

The piano's antiquity is reflected in its design. The keyboard has eighty-five ivory-covered keys, rather than the modern eighty-eight. Those keys activate a hammer, which strikes the strings using

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Museum board member Ann Dilcher with Tom Moore, whose late wife, Ellie, led the campaign to rebuild the historic piano. Philosophy wasn't the only barrier: in 2010, the cost to rebuild it was estimated at $70,000.

a much simpler system than the complex modern "grand" action. In addition to being cracked, the Kempf House piano soundboard has lost its "crown," and the belly is a hodgepodge of repaired hammers, worn, loose pulleys, shims, and corroded plating.

Qualified technicians and experts in piano history and repair have offered disparate and contradictory opinions about the sound of the Kempf House piano—whether it still "sings"—and about what should be done with it. As with many antiques, there are different approaches that could be taken with the piano: rebuild and restore, or preserve and conserve.

In the 1990s the Kempf House Museum board subscribed to the philosophy of retaining the piano's original mechanism and preserving it as a museum piece, maintaining and repairing it when needed to keep it functional. The soundboard was restrung and shimmed, standard procedures for preserving an aging piano rather than restoring it. In its current condition, the piano supports the gentle and reverent playing of musicians at Christmas caroling parties and Valentine's Day teas as well as impromptu performances from random visitors. Minimal though they may be, repairs to the piano to keep it functional are necessary and ongoing.

Since the 1990s, assorted piano specialists have weighed in on the desirability of restoration. Though they are not in complete agreement, their consensus is that the piano has to be rebuilt if it is going to be used for concerts. In the 2000s, the late Ellie Moore, a retired Ann Arbor music teacher, joined the board and began an initiative to replace the piano's interior with a modern grand piano mechanism in the original rosewood cabinet.

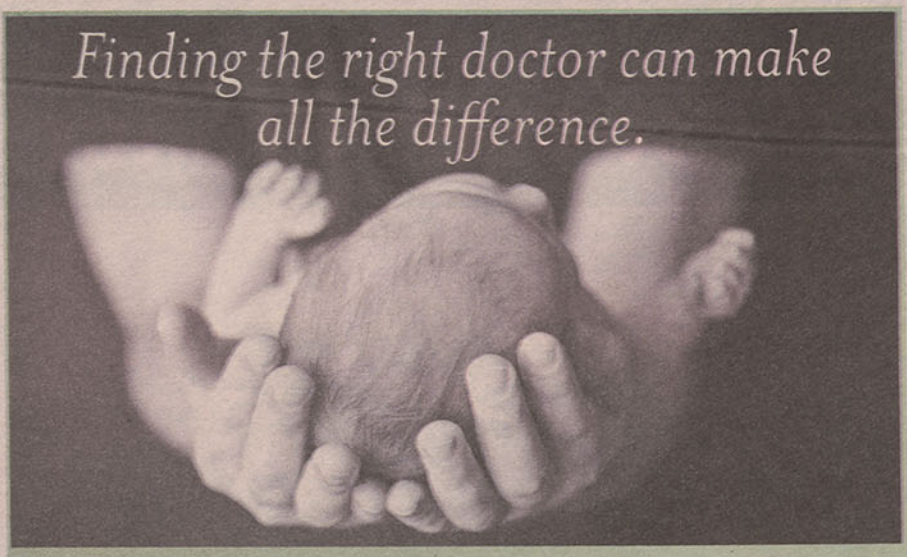
When I first attended the delightful annual Valentine's Day Victorian tea in 2010, Kjirsten Blander, the board president at that time, told me that the piano needed to be shipped back to the Steinway factory in New York for rebuilding, at a price tag of $70,000. That decision was the result of Ellie Moore's efforts. Moore died in March 2016 and the initiative was tabled, but she remembered the piano in her will, and donations toward its restoration have been made in her memory, as she requested. The sum received so far is insufficient. The board applied for an Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation grant but did not receive it.

And the philosophical question remains unsettled: should the piano be left as a museum piece, like the other original objects in Kempf House, or should it be restored for use in serious performances? Kempf House board member Ann Dilcher tells me the piano committee that Moore created plans to reconvene. Dilcher suggests that fresh blood on the board might help resolve the piano question. With a bare-bones board of volunteers, it's difficult for the dedicated caretakers of the house to also make the piano a priority.

Nevertheless, piano experts from the university have recommended rebuilding, and the influence of Moore's initiative is strong. There is a link on the Kempf House website requesting donations to the Piano Fund, as well as to the Garden Fund, for the other great pride of Kempf House. The Kempf piano might be an ideal project for the university to underwrite for students of piano technology.

For local music lovers looking for a cause, the Kempf House piano awaits. Meanwhile, Kempf House is open for free tours on Sunday afternoons in spring and fall. And the piano features prominently in the house's annual Family Christmas Carol Sing—see Events, December 4.

—Beth Dwoskin



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MARK BIALEK

"It was a preventable death," says Stephani Preston of A2 Safe Transport. "People have had enough."

Tragedy on Fuller Rd.

The death of Justin Tang and the future of pedestrian safety

by James Leonard

Qi-Xuan "Justin" Tang was crossing Fuller Rd. by Huron High School in the predawn darkness October 25 when he was struck by a car and killed. The Community High junior was going to catch a shuttle bus to his school downtown.

"Justin used a crosswalk that leads from the Gallup Park entrance," explains Jane Lumm, the Second Ward councilmember who lives near the Tang family in Ann Arbor Hills. "Like so many kids on the south side of the river he walks across railroad tracks to that crosswalk. For a lot of kids that's how they get to school."

"We'd been aware of traffic issues around Huron for years," says retiring school board member Andy Thomas. "The most concerning was the [crosswalk] on Huron Pkwy. where there was a significant injury from an accident several years ago. We were trying to get the city to do something for three years, and over the summer they finally did.

"For this to happen was a terrible shock. We had known this crosswalk was a problem, and you have this sinking feeling that this could have been prevented."

That's how Kathy Griswold sees it. "I'm very angry," says the longtime pedestrian safety activist. "And these people are angrier then I am."

"These people" are A2 Safe Transport, a parents' group advocating for pedestrian and bike safety. It was organized "the day Justin Tang was killed," says Stephani Preston, the group's spokesperson. "It was a preventable death. We have around fifty members now. People have had enough."

There had been some improvements before the tragedy. "The crosswalk was striped with standard markings [and] new reflective pedestrian crossing signs [were installed] this past spring," emails city administrator Howard Lazarus. Since Tang's death, "the city has placed electronic message boards along Fuller Road alerting motorists to the crosswalk and assigned a police officer to assist in pedestrian and bicycle crossing and monitor speeds on a temporary basis." He adds that the city is currently finalizing design guidelines for crosswalk signage. Once they're done, "the city will schedule and install the new signs and markings [and] work with DTE to install improved street lighting."

Not soon enough, says Lumm. "We have to do something immediately, and I regret we didn't do it sooner." She drafted a resolution prioritizing installing streetlights at the Fuller crosswalk and evaluating other school crosswalks. It passed unanimously.

"The tragedy is that we're being reactive to everything," says Fifth Ward rep Chip Smith. "It's such a terrible thing and so heartbreaking and so preventable. This shows the failure of the infrastructure, and the failure of environment we created. We designed roads so forty miles per hour is an acceptable standard. It's not acceptable."

Linda Diane Feldt, head of the city's pedestrian safety task force, agrees. "We wanted twenty-five miles per hour at least at schools if not everywhere. And not forty miles per hour next to a school! If you get hit at forty you're dead. People survive at twenty-five."

No one in the schools' administration wanted to be interviewed. Thomas says they're feeling "a combination of shock and anger. It's been a tough fall for the schools. We've had three student deaths and all on Tuesdays: an apparent suicide [a Pioneer student killed in a fall from a parking structure], the shooting death [of a Pioneer student at the Pinelake Village Cooperative], and then for this to happen right outside our school!" Yet another death followed in November, when a Huron student accidentally fell from a U-M parking structure—also on a Tuesday.

Justin Tang was the seventh pedestrian a car struck and killed in Ann Arbor in the last five years. What can be done?

Administrator Lazarus emails the city's answer. "Consistent with state statutes, the City can install markings, signs, signals and lighting; adjust speed limits; and install traffic calming measures as appropriate and allowed."

The city has installed many new crosswalks in the past few years. But in Smith's view "previous councils didn't put enough money into the street lighting" that would allow drivers to see pedestrians using them. Why? "Shit costs money. We have so many competing interests, and we've lost millions in state revenue sharing. And what should we spend the money we do have on: more police for traffic enforcement or more street lighting?"

"It hasn't been a council priority until recently," agrees Chuck Warpehoski, also from the Fifth Ward and another supporter of pedestrian and bike safety. "We put money in the budget, but many [approved projects] haven't happened yet."

Retiring First Ward rep Sabra Briere says "it's easy to blame people when things go wrong, but people don't see an issue is serious until everyone is aware. As a community we've been resistant to more crosswalks because raising the priority of pedestrian safety means slowing or stopping traffic. That's a hard sell, and it takes time.

"And we've achieved so much," she continues. "Just the week before [Tang's death], we had approved the funding to install more street lighting on Nixon and

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Tragedy on Fuller Rd.

Dhu Varren and, if money was left over, at this crosswalk. That was a triumph, and even at the last session some members of council weren't willing to spend more money."

Briere has long pushed for pedestrian safety spending but says, "Only in recent years, with new councilmembers, have I found support for my position." Instead, she says, "the focus has been 'fix the damn potholes.' Every time people like me talk about pedestrian or bike rider safety, the response from some of our colleagues is, 'Don't slow down the cars!' "

Incredibly, Briere says, the city had a moratorium on new street lighting for ten years—because it slipped everyone's mind. "During a budget discussion a decade ago, councilmembers were peeved [over] the long-range contract with DTE," she remembers, "and council said, 'Let's have a moratorium on street lights.' It didn't take action next year, and by the next year it fell out of everybody's memory. Then in 2014, [former councilmember] Steve Kunselman made a resolution to lift the moratorium, and it passed unanimously."

Warpehoski says council lifted the moratorium "because of Kathy Griswold bringing it up to us repeatedly and getting a bigger budget" as the economy recovered.

Griswold, a former school board member, is all but unrelenting in her criticism of council. "Jane Lumm's resolution addresses one crosswalk, and I commend her for it," she says. "But we're never going to have safe crosswalks if we just react. We have to identify all our crosswalks, and we have to do it immediately, because right now many of our crosswalks don't meet minimum standards—and no one gives a shit."

"Council should suspend deer cull for a year and put money into crosswalks," suggests former Second Ward councilmember (and cull opponent) Sally Petersen. Chip Smith, another opponent, seconds that: "If we cancel the deer cull, we'd save $250,000 [over four years], and I'm for that."

"It's not a relevant argument," Briere retorts. "Putting in the infrastructure for street lighting and setting the priorities for that takes a significant amount of time. The deer cull is cheap. It is about forty to fifty thousand [a year]. There is no street lighting project we could install in the next year that would be that inexpensive."

"I wouldn't cancel the cull," Warpehoski says. "Besides, we are spending twice as much money on nonlethal methods [this year] than to do the actual cull."

Briere, who will leave council this month, is pinning her hopes on the new city administrator. "I'm really grateful for Howard Lazarus. He's the first city administrator to realize pedestrian and bike infrastructure is doable and affordable."

"Lazarus has a better understanding of the issue [because he] comes with professional engineer experience," says Warpehoski. "He has the perspective of 'yes, we can do it.' "

State law allows cities to set 25-mph speed limits near schools when students are coming and going. But while the city knew the law stipulates a school zone can be implemented only "at the request of the school superintendent," the schools didn't—until representatives of the city and the schools met two weeks after Tang's death.

In an email after the meeting, Andy Thomas noted that last January he suggested to city officials that a school zone was needed near Huron. No formal letter was sent, however, because no one told him that one was needed—a failure to communicate that "perpetuated unsafe conditions around our schools." After the meeting, he adds, "I think we are well on our way to overcoming some of these communication gaps."

Community High parent Colleen Seifert has another suggestion: move the schools' start times back. "I'm really distraught about this. We could have made sure no student was commuting at 7:20 in the morning."

One of three leaders of the local chapter of the national group Start School Later, Seifert says they've already got 700 signatures on a petition to make the change. "Andy Thomas said they've been looking at it, but I don't think he has a good grasp of it."

"The Board is very much aware of the mounting evidence that a later start time would be beneficial to adolescents," Thomas responds in another email. "We are actively considering a change in start time for our high and middle schools.

"Not all students and parents are supportive of such a change, due to the potential effect on after-school activities," he adds. "Many members of our community consider such activities to be an essential part of the educational experience. We have asked our administrative team to examine how a later start time might be implemented, what the cost implications might be, and how this would affect after-school activities. We anticipate that we will receive their full report, along with recommendations, sometime this winter."

Ann Arbor's high schools start at 7:45, followed over the next hour by middle and elementary schools. In a phone interview, Thomas explains that "the reason we have the staggered start times is so that the drivers can finish the rounds [delivering one age group], then start another." Moving the high school start time back would require "twice as many buses and twice as many drivers. The big challenge now on transportation is that we can't get enough bus drivers."

Seifert offers three alternatives: "move the whole schedule back, or flip the schedule, or have mixed-ages buses."

"The schools bear a responsibility," Chip Smith says. "Busing has gone away for a lot of people, and more people are walking to school."

Thomas explains how that happened. "It goes back to 2011, the second year of severe [state] funding cuts, and we were looking to cut costs. So we increased the walk zone. Previously, if you're within a mile you won't get bus service. We increased it to one and a half miles. That affected a fair number of students, but the unintended consequence was not to increase the number of walkers but to increase the number of students being driven to schools by their parents"—adding to the traffic congestion that endangers walkers.

Thomas says the city has the ultimate responsibility for the safety of its streets.

"They need to make pedestrian safety their top priority and not get hung up on 'it's going to cost money to put up lights, it's going to slow down traffic.' I don't think it's lack of good intention on the city's part. But the crosswalk on Huron Pkwy. [took] three years, and it took five years for the crosswalk on Washtenaw leading to Tappan. We worked with the city on improvements on Stadium by Pioneer, and the city couldn't afford to do the project this year, so it was put on hold.

"Ann Arbor is not a pedestrian-friendly city, particularly around our schools," Thomas concludes. "People don't understand pedestrian crosswalks. You can't depend on voluntary compliance."

> Sabra Briere says Howard Lazarus is "the first city administrator to realize pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure is doable and affordable."

Stephani Preston couldn't agree more. "In the past 25 years I have lived in Atlanta, three cities in California, two locations in Iowa City, IA and two homes in Ann Arbor," she emails. "I always walked and biked to work and school and for recreation in all of those places."

But when she tried to commute by bike after moving to Ann Arbor in 2005, she had to give it up after three months "because it was just too unsafe. There is no awareness of pedestrians and bikes in A2, combined with poor lighting and crosswalks that no one stops at … I specifically moved to A2 because it seemed like a town with a high quality of life where I could enjoy a healthy, active life. That has not been a reality and it is getting worse every year as the traffic increases, the number of commuters increase, the speeds increase, and the infrastructure degrades from an already poor condition."

A2 Safe Transport, she says, is "going to make sure the city knows that it is a priority, and that pedestrian safety should be the number one budget priority. The mayor ran on a platform of a livable, walkable downtown, and now he has the chance to put the money where his mouth is. If he won't do that, we'll find someone who will." ■

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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

THE SALE OF *Maynard* HOUSE

The Grand Budapest Hotel of Ann Arbor is turning into student housing.

JAN SCHLAIN

by Jan Schlain

Maynard House Management, LLC
September 20, 2016
RE: change in ownership of Maynard House

Dear Resident:

My parents Helen and Norris Post built the Maynard House and opened it as a residential, office and retail property in 1961–1962. After nearly 55 years of association with Maynard House and its residents, it was a difficult decision to make but we have decided to sell Maynard House to a new owner who promises to make significant investment into the property and bring in outside management assistance to help provide great customer service and a promising future for the property and all residents.

Both [office manager] Ashleigh Nesmith and [maintenance manager] Bob Pierson will be continuing to serve the new management company Redstone Residential and owners, 400 Maynard Street apartments, so you will have familiar faces when you stop by the office to pay rent or make requests.

We are confident you are in good hands with the new ownership and management company. Best wishes to you in your endeavors.

Sincerely yours,
Garry Post
Robert Hill
Maynard House Associates LLC

Slipped under the door of every tenant in the ten-story apartment building that afternoon, the memo sounded reassuring. But residents soon found cause for concern.

On Friday, September 30, a longtime tenant ran into Bob Pierson in the hallway. She told him that her closet door needed work but said it wasn't urgent. Pierson told her he'd take care of it Monday.

On Monday, "Bob came to my door and said, 'I have to apologize,' " recalls the resident, who asked not to be named for fear of offending the new management. "I said, 'For what?' He said, 'I can't fix your closet door. I've been fired.'

"I said, 'Come on in. You're not going to tell me that standing out in the hall.' He said, 'I have to leave as soon as I gather my stuff.' "

Pierson had maintained the eleven-story building at 400 Maynard St. for thirteen years. But at 10:30 that morning, he says, the building's new managers fired him.

"They told me I made too much money," Pierson recalls by phone. "They told me they could replace me with a nineteen-year-old student they pay $12.50 an hour."

Given the building's age, "several things need replacing," Pierson says. But he didn't think it would be him.

"Maynard House was the Grand Budapest Hotel of Ann Arbor," emails David Erdody, the building's resident manager for more than twenty years. "I met and became friends with so many interesting people from all over the world—international scholars, a Nobel Laureate, *New Yorker* magazine staff and others from the Knight-Wallace fellowship—and, of course, all the awesome permanent residents."

The buyers who paid nearly $10 million for Maynard House are interested in none of that. Based in California, with a family connection to the giant Toll Brothers building company, they've changed the name to "400 Maynard Street." They're marketing it as "Ann Arbor's premier student housing experience"—and asking $4,000 a month for a two-bedroom penthouse.

"I was only going to stay a few years," recalls the long-term tenant. "But everything was right here. I moved around the building three times.

"We knew Garry. He was here quite a bit," this person says. But "he didn't say goodbye to anyone."

Reached by email, Garry Post declined to discuss the building or the sale. According to his Facebook page, Post and Hill, his business partner and husband, have moved to Colorado. But Jeffrey Post, Garry's younger brother, was happy to share his memories of Maynard House and their parents.

Jeffrey, who now heads the family's Post Realty, sees their mother's vision in Maynard House. Born Helen Stegeman in 1925 in the Upper Peninsula, she grew up on Brockman and graduated from University High School and the University of Michigan. She met Norris Post there, and they married in 1948.

The couple built Maynard House with Helen's brother, Jack Stegeman, and a fourth partner. Though Jeffrey wasn't even in kindergarten at the time, he knew it well growing up and says it reflects her modern flair.

When Maynard House opened in 1962, the *Ann Arbor News* ran a series of articles praising everything from its prime location and "sculpted form" to the "clear as crystal" TV reception from its shared antenna. Even hiring a resident manager warranted a story—and a photo of Norris Post and Jack Stegeman on the terrace of one of the two rooftop penthouses. Even then, they rented for $400 a month.

Jeffrey Post points out the "sweeping curves" on the facade's white masonry

COURTESY DAVID ERDODY

Longtime resident manager David Erdody calls Maynard House "the Grand Budapest Hotel of Ann Arbor. I met and became friends with so many interesting people from all over the world."

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THE SALE OF Maynard HOUSE

COURTESY JEFFREY POST

A pre-construction rendering. The opening of the city's first residential high rise was big news in 1962.

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panels, which form wavelike crests beneath the gold-anodized windows. "If you look closely at the building it is pebbly," he says. "You wouldn't do that kind of texture today because it would be too expensive."

For all its style, though, Ed Gottschalk believes the architecture "was ahead of its time." The Posts hired him to manage Maynard House in 1981—after raising their children in Ann Arbor, they had moved to North Carolina to manage an auto parts supply company they had purchased there. Gottschalk looked after it for them until their return in the early 2000s.

"When my wife and I came, there was kind of a mixed bag of management—lots of changeover," recalls Gottschalk, who still manages his own campus properties. "There was no on-site management and some empty apartments."

The Gottschalks created short-term leases for visiting professors and other guests of the university, including about a dozen furnished "executive apartments" scattered around the building. The place filled up, and it's been that way since.

"I started a book," said Gottschalk, "not using names, but I called it 'Tenants I have known.' I never finished it." He remembers a famous astronomer living there (although he couldn't remember his name), and one visiting prof who asked him to remove all the furniture, set up a pup tent in the apartment, and lived in that.

Gottschalk says three Nobel Prize winners lived there, but Erdody could only remember one—physicist Martinus J. G. Veltman (whose prize came after he'd moved back to his native Holland). Erdody also remembers several visits by Bob Mankoff, the cartoon editor of the *New Yorker,* a legal scholar from Rwanda, and "a Russian journalist who was very critical of Putin."

The guy in the pup tent would have been of professional interest to another group of Maynard House tenants: ten or so therapists rented apartments for use as session rooms. "My husband and I have been here for twenty-eight years," says clinical social worker Emily Miller, who shares a fifth-floor unit with her clinical psychologist spouse Jerry.

For the Freudians who use free association in their practices, a sky view is important, so most of their unit numbers end in "06" or "03"—the corner offices facing Central Campus rather than looming neighbors Tower Plaza or Zaragon West. Clinical psychologist Arthur Brickman, who has practiced in the building for twenty-two years, is in Suite 606.

"It was a place that became easily woven into people's lives," says Brickman. When Bob Pierson was fired, Brickman and other tenants took him out to lunch at Knight's Steakhouse to thank him for his work.

Brickman, the Millers, and the other therapists will not be far behind him. Along with the sale notice, they had a second letter slipped under their doors.

"[O]ver the next year we will be adding lounges, TVs, a gym and a rooftop deck to our building," it read. "We are so excited about all of the positive changes coming our way! Unfortunately all of the apartments on levels 2–10 are no longer able to be zoned as commercial spaces and … at the end of your current lease, 400 Maynard will not be renewing. All offices will be remodeled and converted back to one-bedroom apartments."

Many therapists had offices in the building. Now, says one, "we're being booted out on our asses."

The zoning explanation is apparently a smokescreen—Ben Carlisle, until recently the city's interim city planning manager, says that he doesn't "see any zoning provision that would prohibit an office use in that district"—but all the therapists are preparing to relocate as their leases end.

"We're being booted out on our asses," says one therapist. Another describes a fierce competition over the most coveted alternative locations.

"Every Realtor in town knows about our problem," laughs Brickman. Some, including the Millers, have bought condos across the street in Tower Plaza. Brickman is part of a group that's looking at space on Main St. downtown.

Erdody describes his role at Maynard House as "the first responder." He's not kidding. Twice he's had to deal with dead bodies in apartments, and he responded to one building fire that began in the incinerator. Pierson says there were problems with the plumbing and air conditioning, and the roof was deteriorating.

But Erdody planned to move to an apartment near the athletic campus at the end of November; once he leaves, the building will no longer have a resident manager. It's now a pin on the map of Redstone Residential, a Utah-based company that manages student housing in college towns across the country. The longtime tenant says they've been instructed to submit maintenance requests by email and to pay the rent by PayPal or electronic check.

"Some people will be vacating," says this tenant. "I was talking with a student who lives here. Apparently she can't stay because the rent's too high." The older tenant will probably follow her.

Redstone was hired by the new owners, an investment group represented by Adam Barzilay. A thirty-something University of Pennsylvania and Harvard grad, Barzilay is partner and director of acquisitions at MJW Investments in Santa Monica, California. He is also the son of Zvi Barzilay, chief operating officer and president of Toll Brothers until he retired at the end of 2011.

Reached by email, Adam Barzilay politely declined to be interviewed for this story. His bio on MJW's website says he is "responsible for the acquisition of student housing and value-added multifamily investments throughout the country"—$150 million worth since 2013. According to the city assessor, $9,964,386 of that went to the purchase of Maynard House.

Since 2009, seven student high-rises have sprouted around campus. Construction recently started on an eighth, next to the Graduate Hotel on Huron, and a ninth has been approved on East University.

Now the chase for student dollars seems to be entering a new phase: national firms buying existing buildings from local owners like the Posts. MJW's website lists more than a dozen small student apartment complexes around the county.

But Maynard House is different. It had student residents, but was never primarily student housing. And unlike downtown's generic new high-rises, its design and management reflected the tastes and values of the individuals who built it.

The new owners will make needed changes, including a new roof and heating system. But "what we're losing is a sense of community," says one of the long-term tenants. "This building is a metaphor for what is happening downtown."

Erdody says he's reminded of Robert Caro's book *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*. "That's what this is," he says. "The destruction of the neighborhood."

Jeffrey Post worries about "developers who come in who have no concern for Ann Arbor and care only about return on investment." He says it seems clear that the people who built the Foundry Lofts and other new student high rises "don't understand what Ann Arbor is about."

He believes that his folks did care when they built and tended to Maynard House. And that's a consoling thought: "I will always be able to point to Maynard House and say, 'Mom and dad had a hand in that.'" ■

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What's Next for UMS?

THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY BET ON AN UNKNOWN WHEN IT HIRED KEN FISCHER. NOW IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE WHO MIGHT REPLACE HIM.

BY LINDA R. BENSON

The 2016–2017 season is the end of an era for the University Musical Society. Its president, Ken Fischer, is retiring after thirty years, and the season's schedule was curated with his departure in mind. There are the usual heavy hitters: an entire Beethoven string quartet cycle, symphonies played by the Berlin Philharmonic and Budapest Festival orchestras, and renowned soloists such as trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and cellist Yo-Yo Ma. There are some unexpected performances too: professional skateboarders performing with DJs celebrating improvisation in sports and music; a dance presentation, "Idiotsyncrasy," that bills itself as "beyond the limits of common sense"; and an intense one-person show exploring gender identity presented at a boxing gym in Detroit. The mix of classic and iconoclastic presentations showcases Fischer's stamp on UMS as a presenter of "uncommon and engaging experiences."

Fischer's vision, organization, people skills, and boundless energy have won UMS widespread acclaim and the 2014 National Medal of Arts for "a lifetime of creative excellence." Nationally recognized foundations have awarded UMS millions in the past decade to support its innovative programming and far-reaching community engagement.

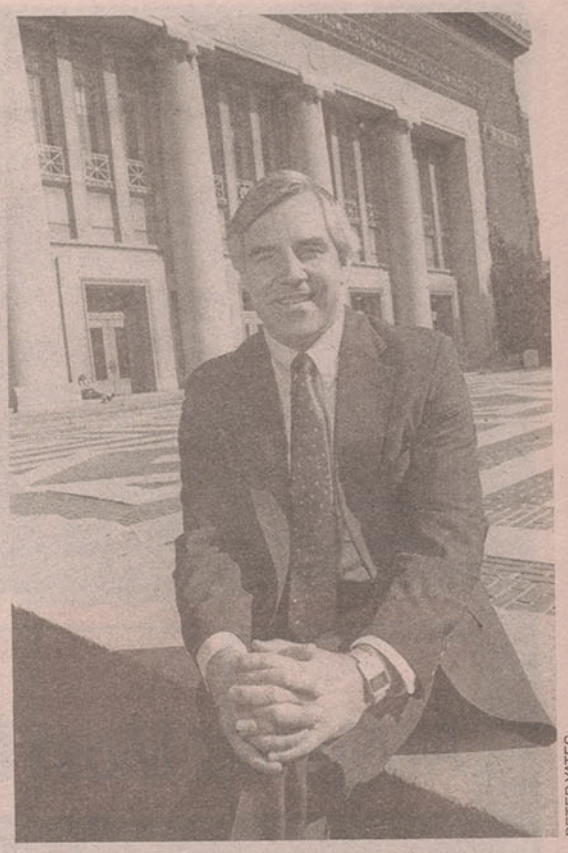
Now the challenge is to find Fischer's successor. "I can't think of a job I would like worse than the committee to replace Ken," says UMS board member David Herzig. "Replacing an iconic leader is a tough job."

Presenters like Fischer direct traffic at the intersection between culture and commerce for sophisticated and risk-taking audiences. "We're lucky to have the commitment, in this town, at the university, and the expectation of the best," says Fischer.

UMS has been on the classical road map ever since president Charles Sink brought Enrico Caruso to Ann Arbor on his first American tour in 1919, selling three-year advances on the UMS series to underwrite the renowned tenor's fee. That reputation continued under Gail Rector, a tall, dignified impresario who epitomized the genteel ivory tower atmosphere of Ann Arbor and its audiences. "Under Rector, a typical series consisted of about twenty-five, thirty concerts, with about 70 percent of revenues coming from ticket sales," says John Reed, a past president of the UMS board. The difference was made up with private donations.

Fischer inherited that world-class reputation, but he is unabashedly proud of expanding it—always championing the importance of distinguished artists. He likes to point to the Berlin Philharmonic's 1999 tour, which included performances in New York, London, Moscow, Paris, Boston, Chicago, Bonn, Washington, D.C.—and Ann Arbor. "We were the smallest city with the largest crowd," he says, with 4,200 people turning out for the concert at Hill Auditorium. The ultimate validation came in 2014, when President Obama awarded UMS the National Medal of Arts in a White House ceremony.

When Fischer was hired, recalls search chair John Reed, he "seemed like the most unlikely candidate of them all." ▶



PETER YATES

COURTESY UMS

▲ President Obama awarding UMS the National Medal of Arts in 2014.

Since Fischer arrived in 1987, however, the arts world has undergone seismic shifts in culture, economics, and technology. Audiences for traditional classical concerts have aged, and engaging younger attendees is challenging. Music programs are among the first to go when public schools cut expenses. The traditional categories of European music—Classical, Romantic and Baroque—are often now perceived as elitist and do not resonate with younger audiences. Digital downloads and streaming music deliver endless choices, at a fraction of the cost of a live performance, while super-sized television screens deliver the illusion of standing next to the world's greatest musicians. And the decline of newspapers leaves fewer opportunities to advertise and concertgoers with fewer reviews to read. Securing grants, endowments, and corporate support and engaging local communities are more important than ever.

"We have to be nimble in our ways of doing business," says Mario Durham, president and CEO of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. An APAP survey of its approximately 2,000 members found that ticket sales cover only about 30 percent of costs. "It is a tough field and you have to be committed. Back in the day, even Bach was kvetching and moaning about the economics, but you have to love the work."

That sense of commitment and love of the work has defined Fischer's tenure. A self-described "people person," Fischer was not an obvious choice to succeed Rector, who graduated from U-M music school and was groomed for the job by his predecessor, Sink. Fischer majored in religion at the College of Wooster and left U-M before completing a doctorate in education to move to Washington, D.C. with his wife, Penny, a flutist, to further her career. When Rector announced his retirement in 1986, Fischer was freelancing as a management consultant, advising clients on organizational planning and fundraising.

But Penny Fischer had worked as Rector's secretary as a student, and Ken had eagerly helped out, shuttling artists like guitarist Andrés Segovia and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich to and from the airport. As a youngster, he attended Interlochen, and in D.C. he'd been part of a group of businesspeople who'd organized a free lunchtime chamber music series.

When he heard from contacts in Ann Arbor that Rector was retiring, he wasn't sure he was ready for the job, but he sent in a resume. When he didn't get a response, he boldly called John Reed, head of the search committee. He announced that he was passing through Ann Arbor on his way to Interlochen—and the committee really ought to talk to him.

UMS was having its own reckoning. Despite its national prestige, the venerable series was falling out of sync with the changing arts scene. Some university-affiliated presenters were including dance and drama in their series; others were pooling their resources to commission new works; and marketing, community engagement, sponsorships, and fundraising were all taking on a more important role.

"Gail tried to break out and do some other things, but we were losing money," says Reed. Pressed by former regent Gene Power, who hated to see his namesake Power Center sitting idle, UMS had extended its classical series into June and July in the first Summer Festivals. But audiences yawned, and the fiasco had left the group $400,000 in debt.

U-M president Harold Shapiro, who was active on the UMS board, felt it was time for a change. "We didn't know about headhunters, and we had no particular

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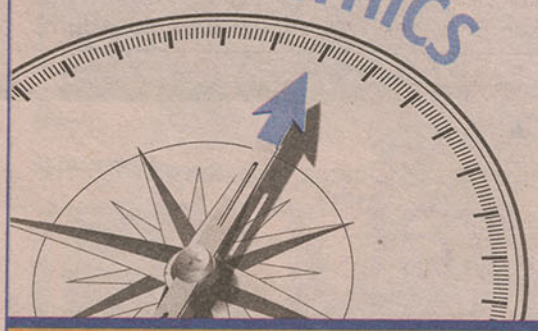

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What's Next * FOR * UMS?

job description," Reed recalls. Rector had given them a list of people around the country who presented concerts on college campuses, and at first, Reed says, the committee was looking for someone much like Rector. But "we didn't sit back and say we knew what we needed—there was a lot of serendipity.

"Over the course of two or three months we had several discussions about how to expand and who could do it," Reed recalls. "We interviewed three, and Ken seemed the most unlikely of all of them. He didn't know the agents the way Gail did, and we didn't know if he could put together a full series. The question was whether he could persuade us, even though he didn't have any of those credentials. But the more we talked about it, he seemed like the logical way to go."

In Fischer, the committee saw another skill set. With his solid frame, rich baritone, and plus-sized personality, he makes an instant connection with people. He seems to draw extra reserves of energy from interacting with others, and those who know him remark on his gift for remembering the names of seemingly everyone who has ever attended a UMS concert—and making them feel wonderful about attending.

"You feel his presence when he walks into a room," says Aaron Dworkin, dean of the U-M School of Music, Theatre, & Dance. They met in the 1990s when Dworkin, then a U-M undergrad, was launching the Sphinx Competition for young black and Latino classical musicians. "Everyone said, 'Talk to Ken.' " Dworkin remembers. "The last person he needed to be meeting with was me, but he took my idea seriously and played an extraordinary role in connecting me with key people and then advocating for me."

While UMS was a well-known brand, Fischer was not. "I learn best by listening to people," Fischer says of his early years on the job. "I began going to conferences and seeking out people sitting alone. I'd ask them, 'Who are the ten best presenters in the U.S.?' A couple of names kept cropping up with regularity, and I set out to meet with them. They became my faculty."

The "faculty" offered some common threads: praise for Hill Auditorium and the long-running success of UMS. But to Fischer's dismay, they also described it as an organization that was playing it safe, classical, and privileged. "We weren't doing much dance, and we weren't smart about what we were doing," Fischer says,

Fischer began actively seeking other projects to add to the traditional classical lineup. Peter Sparling, U-M professor of dance, had been a member of the

COURTESY KEN FISCHER

▲ In a tribute at the Maryland football game in November, the marching band formed a script "Fischer" on the field.

Martha Graham Dance Company and alerted Fischer to the troupe's upcoming fifty-year anniversary in 1994. Fischer negotiated a three-week residency in Ann Arbor and combined it with the fiftieth anniversary of Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, which was written for the group. It was innovative, particularly in integrating performances with the dance department through classes and workshops. And its success gave UMS a blueprint for a much bigger undertaking—the residency of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

DAVID CANTOR HOPES THERE'S STILL ROOM FOR THE KIND OF SERENDIPITY THAT BROUGHT FISCHER HERE THIRTY YEARS AGO.

Again, it started in Fischer's frequent mode of operation—connecting with his grapevine. Then regent Phil Power (Gene's son) told Fischer of a luncheon he attended with the British ambassador in Washington, where he heard the RSC was looking for an invitation to come to the U.S. They wanted to do four history plays but couldn't get any coproducers in England.

Fischer instantly saw the possibilities. "It was the kind of thing a university should do," he recalls thinking. "Think of all of the contextual programming you can do to augment it." But first, he had to educate the RSC, whose leaders had no idea what an American public university was like and thought Ann Arbor was a girl's name. RSC director Michael Boyd came and approved the Power Center venue—and then Fischer heard their seven-figure fee. It was a far bigger commitment than UMS had ever attempted.

To get U-M president Lee Bollinger on board as a guarantor, Fischer planned "a dinner to die for" in a private New York City club surrounded by several RSC luminaries. At the end of the evening, Fischer and Bollinger quietly had a drink and sealed the deal: three residencies of three weeks each with the history plays in 2001, an original production of Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* in 2003, and three more Shakespeare plays in 2006. Fischer attracted additional support from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and was indefatigable in promoting the productions, reaching beyond UMS's core audience in southeast Michigan to draw theater fans from Chicago and engaging U-M departments to tie in academic lectures and community outreach.

Fischer sustained and revitalized UMS, but like the rest of the university it has become more corporate in the last three decades. Instead of a small team of faculty members taking suggestions from friends, the search for the next UMS president is carefully orchestrated and international in scope.

"The UMS footprint is enormous in the arts world," says former research VP Steve Forrest, who chairs the UMS board and heads the search. Spencer Stuart, a well-established executive search firm, has been hired to publicize the position and give the twelve-person committee guidance.

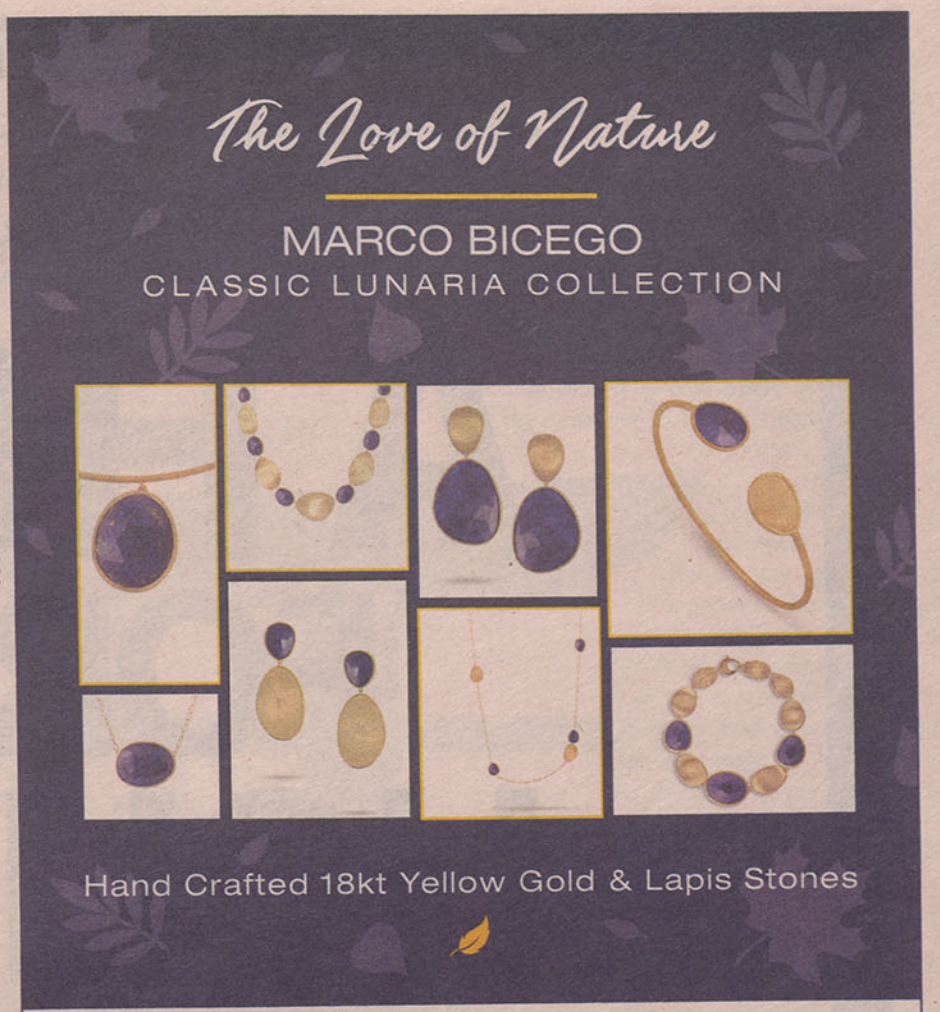
"We are not looking for a fortune-teller, but we have to see what chances we can take," Forrest says. Interviews are underway, and he expects the committee to announce its selection before Fischer's last season ends next spring.

"No one can replace Ken, but someone will succeed him," says Dworkin, who's on the search committee. "They will do their own definition" of what UMS needs next.

David Cantor, who recently left the UMS board, points out that while Fischer has made himself an institution, "when he was hired, UMS was taking a big risk. He was untested."

While the process this time is more formal, Cantor hopes there's still room for the kind of serendipity that brought Fischer to Ann Arbor thirty years ago.

"We should be prepared to start anew, with someone with great potential but [who] carries some risk," he says. "I would prefer that we bring someone who freely admitted that they don't know it all." ■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by Anita LeBlanc

The Strange Tale of Mr. Shiji

Homeless and mentally ill, he finally made it back to Japan

The elderly Asian man who walked into the Delonis Center homeless shelter in the spring of 2011 had no identification, but spoke English well. He gave his name as Yashukiko Shiji. At his intake interview, he said that he had a business in Japan that would provide income, but would need a private place at night to make long-distance calls. Staff found one for him, but soon began to doubt the existence of the business: he had no income and didn't appear to be using the phone.

Looking for a job and housing are prerequisites for the shelter's residential program. But with no driver's license or passport, Shiji was ineligible for Section 8 housing, food stamps, or Social Security that might have paid for his housing and food. Shelter staff were able to arrange health care coverage, through the Washtenaw Health Plan and a Medicaid program that covers emergency services.

The best guess at the shelter was that Shiji had come to the U.S. in the 1970s to attend graduate school. As his mental illness worsened, one of his professors took him in.

Operations specialists Erin Stanley and Rebecca Elias met the man they call "Mr. Shiji" soon after he arrived. They would see him staring at a wall or ceiling for hours. Attempts to interact with him triggered fits of escalating anger. He responded to questions, in English or Japanese, with silence, single words, or short clipped phrases.

He wasn't able to handle being near other people, wore gloves all the time, and was obsessive about what he would touch. "Doing a load of laundry was a fiasco," Elias recalls. "If one sock fell on the floor, he wanted to rewash everything." Despite his painstaking efforts to avoid contamination, he had poor personal hygiene. He refused to use the shelter's public restrooms and demanded new underwear each time he was incontinent.

It was clear that Shiji had severe mental illness, but he refused medical or psychiatric evaluations, so shelter staff couldn't get an accurate assessment or arrange treatment. It would eventually take four years, and the coordinated efforts of multiple social service agencies, health care providers, and two governments to get him back to his hometown in Japan.

Shiji with helpers as he prepared to depart last year. Getting him home requied the coordinated efforts of multiple social service agencies, health care providers, and two governments.

Details about Shiji's past are sparse, but the best guess at the shelter was that he had come to U-M in the 1970s to attend graduate school. As his mental illness worsened one of his professors took him in, and he lived there for over forty years. When the professor died, his widow could no longer care for Shiji and delivered him to the shelter.

By the following spring, it was clear that Shiji couldn't meet the requirements of the residential program. Shelter staff contacted a Wayne State University immigration clinic to see if they could help; they couldn't. They contacted U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), only to be told the agency's current focus was on high-profile cases; since Shiji wasn't committing any crimes, they wouldn't act.

Leaving the residential program meant Shiji would no longer have a cot and a locker at the shelter. But he remained eligible for meals, case management, services at the health clinic, and the warming and cooling centers. Stanley suspects that in good weather he sometimes slept on a nearby front porch.

In December 2012, Stanley left the shelter to work for the U-M Complex Care Management program, which coordinates care for patients with the highest level of need, including physical and mental illness, homelessness, and lack of health insurance. It streamlines services by working with patients' medical and home caregivers, community providers, and support agencies. Stanley became Shiji's case manager there.

That winter, Shiji spent a lot of time outdoors. He had no boots, and in the spring of 2013, warming center residents began complaining about a horrible stench that filled the room when he took off his shoes. Shiji was hospitalized with trench foot and ulcers on his legs, probably caused by continually wearing the same wet socks, long johns, and clothes.

Stanley saw the one-week hospital stay as an opportune time to seek mental health care. Shiji was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder and psychosis, but he fought his transfer to the U-M psychiatric unit. Stanley and the UMHS treatment team petitioned the probate court to admit him involuntarily and approve an alternative treatment order (ATO) requiring him to continue treatment after discharge. The court granted it, subject to review in ninety days.

Stanley found funding for Shiji's medications through MSupport, the hospital's charity program, and a U-M psychiatrist to work with him and administer his injections. He respected the judge's authority and generally complied. The shelter agreed that after his treatment was done, he could again be a full-time resident. Stanley says Ellen Schulmeister, the shelter's executive director, "was horrified at what he had been through and basically said, 'We have to do this.' "

Though he no longer had to seek employment or housing, Shiji was required to shower each Friday. He insisted on a private bathroom, with clean towels to cover the floor and a new bar of soap each time he showered. He stockpiled towels so compulsively that eventually staff had to lock the cabinet. And he again became uncooperative during medical appointments.

When the court order expired that summer, Shiji objected to continuing treatment. Stanley and the U-M psychiatrist went back to court. "We saw this as vital to him staying at the shelter," she recalls. "Without his medication it was too difficult for staff to work with him." But Shiji no longer seemed an immediate risk to himself or others, so the judge didn't renew the order.

Once he stopped taking his medication, Shiji began struggling and making vague suicide threats. He was taken back to the psych unit, then discharged to the shelter. Finally, through the efforts of the shelter and the U-M, the court approved a yearlong ATO.

Then, in January 2014, Shiji fell and broke his collarbone. He was hospitalized, and a U-M geriatric neurologist later confirmed that Parkinson's disease, in

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The Strange Tale of Mr. Shiji

combination with his OCD-related inability to use his hands to steady himself, were behind his frequent falls. He returned to the shelter, but continued to have frequent falls and trips to the hospital.

Elias, meanwhile, had started working at the federally funded Frequent Users System Engagement (FUSE) program, intended to help "communities identify and engage high utilizers of public systems and place them into supportive housing to break the cycle of repeated use of costly crisis services and involvement in shelters and the criminal justice system."

Stanley applied to FUSE for housing funding for Shiji. It was approved in June, and Elias became his FUSE case manager. When they told him he'd soon have housing, Elias and Stanley saw him smile for the first time.

"Everyone was very excited at this point, especially at the shelter, where they were able to get this basically unhouseable man into housing," Stanley says. "The fact that the shelter kept him long enough until he was able to get into FUSE, and that FUSE was willing and able to work with him, was a huge success."

But before they could find him housing, Shiji fell again and went back to the hospital. Now his care team agreed he couldn't live independently—he needed home care. He returned to the shelter temporarily while his team looked for an apartment and funding for care—but then another fall sent him back to the hospital.

This time shelter management told the U-M he couldn't come back, because he needed more care than they could provide. He was transferred to a hospital observation unit until Stanley persuaded Michigan Visiting Nurses to arrange support for him as a charity case.

Once care was lined up, Avalon Housing found Shiji an apartment. Stanley arranged his medical and home care schedules and helped Elias find clothing, furniture, food, and housewares. Once he moved in, they took him to medical appointments and coached his caregivers.

But "much of what we did was basically problem-solve around his behavior," Stanley recalls. Shiji rarely left his bed and refused to shower or flush the toilet. Caregivers grew so uncomfortable that "they would kind of not want to give him services," Stanley says. "So, we're kind of coaching them—'he still needs this, so what do we do?' … we were constantly putting out fires; it was just constant crisis and behavioral management."

Why did Elias and Stanley persist? "Everybody says that they meet people where they're at," Elias says, "but the challenge is to stay there with them, not needing them to have certain behaviors to get their needs met, not reaching out your hand and dragging them into your vision for them. We never expected him to be different to get his needs met.

"It's easy to criticize. But when you have a helpless human being in front of you, helping them is the right thing to do."

Now help came from Shiji's home country. Elias emailed the Japanese consulate in Detroit, and staffers Kenji Hashimoto and James Figurski came out to meet Shiji in his apartment.

To the astonishment of Elias and Stanley, when they arrived Shiji shook hands with Hashimoto—something they'd never seen their germophobic client do—and immediately engaged him in animated conversation. "We had no idea what they were talking about since they were speaking in Japanese, but we were just were smiling," Stanley recalls. "We'd never heard him have a real conversation with anyone."

Hashimoto and Figurski began to visit Shiji, and Hashimoto told him how important it was for him to respect his caregivers. "It didn't always work perfectly, but it would change Shiji's behavior for a short while," says Elias.

Hashimoto's research in Japan revealed that Shiji was seventy-two and a native of Osaka. The consulate took steps to get him a passport, and Shiji's support team began to discuss returning him to Japan.

> To his care managers' astonishment, Shiji immediately shook hands with the man from the Japanese consulate—something they'd never seen their germophobic client do.

Shiji was again refusing his medications. He was having difficulty swallowing, which, combined with poor diet and depression, caused his weight to plunge. The judge approved his ATO for another year. With his weight down to 101, a visiting psychiatric nurse told Stanley that he would likely need to be hospitalized soon.

In January 2015, Hashimoto delivered Shiji's passport. He later emailed Stanley to say that Osaka was willing to consider finding a place for him. Shiji, who had previously resisted the idea, began to come around. With arrangements in place for long-term health care and housing, he finally gave his consent, saying, "I agree. It's time for me to go home."

Elias and Stanley were stunned to learn that this would not be Shiji's first deportation: ICE had even put him on a plane in 2008. Shiji denied this, but when Hashimoto showed him the official paperwork, admitted that he had felt sick and was allowed to leave the plane.

Given that history and his deteriorating mental and physical condition, it was agreed that Stanley and Elias would accompany him all the way to Osaka. The Detroit consulate requested his deportation so that ICE could make travel arrangements and pay for his flight. U-M and a private donor contributed $7,000 for the care managers' travel expenses.

Hashimoto drew up a contract for his return. Elias says that getting his signature in the past had been "like pulling teeth. He'd snort at the paper and ignore it, taking hours to give a signature. But when Mr. Hashimoto asked, he picked up the paper and signed it."

In May, Shiji fell again. This time, he was diagnosed with a minor heart attack and weakened muscles. His speech became garbled, but he was more amenable to the occupational and physical therapy that would give him strength for his trip. Elias and Stanley visited him daily, encouraging him to participate in his therapy and coordinating his care. Because the hospital in Japan didn't have wheelchair access, they helped him practice walking and climbing stairs.

When Shiji was released from the hospital in June, Elias and Stanley picked him up and took him directly to Detroit Metro airport. Joined by Hashimoto and Figurski, they met officer Joseph Salvatera of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Salvatera helped them through security, stayed with them until boarding, and briefed the flight crew, who in turn arranged an escort to help Shiji and his caregivers off the plane and through customs in Japan.

The half-day flight and four-hour train ride to Osaka went as planned. But despite the meticulous arrangements, Stanley says, "We were turned away from multiple hospitals before finding one to accept him, and made multiple trips to [a district] office where we had to sit for hours, struggling to communicate and feeling powerless."

Once again, the Detroit consulate came through. "While we were working with social services, Mr. Hashimoto was available by phone to translate and help explain the situation, even though it was the middle of the night in Detroit," Stanley says. "To say that we would not have been able to do this without Mr. Hashimoto's compassion and dedication is an enormous understatement." With his help, Shiji was eventually admitted to an Osaka hospital.

"Mr. S. started to slowly open up towards the end of the trip," Stanley recalls. "Even though he expressed fear that we were leaving him, he also started to translate for us and engage in conversation more with the social services and hospital staff than we were used to seeing him do with his providers in America."

Goodbyes were difficult and emotional. Shiji imperiously asked Stanley and Elias to tuck him in bed as they were preparing to leave. As they did, he softly said thank you to them for the first time. ■

Hashimoto has since returned to Japan. He let Elias and Stanley know that Shiji improved enough in the hospital to transfer to a nursing home and then to an assisted living facility.

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[OR WORKANTILE]

THE PROS AND CONS OF AN UNORTHODOX WORKPLACE

by Kathleen Schenck

Nearly a quarter of the workforce did some or all of their work from home in 2015, up from 19 percent in 2003, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Via interviews and emails, we asked four Ann Arborites to share their experiences working remotely or from home.

Carol Furtado was working from home long before it was a trend. For her, the decision may have been solidified on a beautiful spring day. After graduating from art school at the University of Michigan, Furtado was enjoying a leisurely walk to a not-so-enjoyable desk job on campus involving student records. (When asked if she worked out of the Office of the Registrar, she jokes that she can't remember—that's how unexciting it was.) "I got docked minutes for getting to work late, but it was worth it," she recalls. "And it really pushed me toward what I was aiming at anyway: doing my own work, selling my own things, living within my means."

That was more than forty years ago. After deciding she "couldn't stand the idea of going into a building and working all day," Furtado quit her job to become a full-time fiber artist. She works from a studio behind her modest, window-filled home off W. Liberty, making scarves, hats, and other forms of wearable art.

Furtado enjoys not being under someone's thumb and the flexibility of working at home. She can work hard in the morning, when she feels most alert and can take advantage of the natural light. By two or three o'clock, she says, "I'm wiped out."

Furtado sells her products at craft shows and shops. While she likes working by herself, she worries she may be missing out on shows or exhibits that other artists hear about through word of mouth. Also, she'd like a better idea of commercial pricing of the types of goods she sells. "There is a negative aspect" to working at home, she explains. But she's able to live within her means doing what she loves. "It's really important to me to be creative."

Fiber artist Carol Furtado has worked at home ever since quitting her U-M job forty years ago.

MARK BIALEK

"Honestly, with two full-time working parents, something had to give," writes Matt Sandstrom, who owns "a small consulting business that works with large automakers."

Sandstrom emails that he "made the decision to work from home because I needed more flexibility to take care of young kids. I still work as much, maybe more, but I can balance the parental roles a bit better now."

Sandstrom, who has a business partner on the west side of the state, meets with automakers on-site one to two days a week. But on days he's at home, his list of "pros" includes: "No commute. Music on all day (except when I take calls). See my kids throughout the day frequently. Can respond to any issues for the house or kids quickly."

And cons? "No team interaction, difficult to hire, delegation can be difficult." When asked how he monitors consulting rates and meets others in his field, Sandstrom writes: "I'm on three boards—Michigan Works! Southeast, Public Policy at the Chamber [of Commerce], and Economic Coordinating Committee for Washtenaw County. Keeps me busy and I meet a lot of professionals this way. When I go to Chamber meetings, I'm not looking for customers, I'm looking for a network of people to help me run my business, stay sane and make meaningful business relationships."

He adds: "And how do we discuss our work? Did I mention coffee shops? They're golden."

MARK BIALEK

Chris Salzman sees the desire to work together among people who would otherwise work alone as "a movement."

"I started working from home after my then girlfriend—now wife—moved to start a degree at University of Michigan," writes creative director Chris Salzman. "I had a meeting with my boss at the time in which I told him I'd either need to find another job or we could work out an arrangement where I could work remotely, with trips back to the main office now and then." Salzman expected the worst. "I was braced for having to hand in my 2 weeks [notice]. He, to my surprise, said yes. That was 7 or 8 years ago."

Relocating to Ann Arbor meant tight quarters for the couple. "We moved out to A2 and I spent about a year working from home in smallish apartments and slowly going stir-crazy," he writes. This led him to seek shelter at the downtown "coworking" space Workantile. Though full membership costs $210 a month, he figures he comes out ahead, because otherwise he'd have to rent a bigger apartment.

With more and more companies hiring freelancers and contract workers, Salzman sees the desire to work together among

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WORKING FROM HOME [OR WORKANTILE] THE PROS AND CONS OF AN UNORTHODOX WORKPLACE

people who would otherwise work alone as a "movement." "Historically the coworking movement allows you to be your own boss while still having coworkers," he says. He appreciates how coworking allows people to run things by one another. The shared space creates an "instant network" where members can ask questions about health insurance or proposed pay from a recent job quote.

"I wasn't at all confident that I could make it work" emails home health practitioner, writer, and teacher Linda Diane Feldt on her decision to work from home.

"Truthfully, the original reason would be to save money," Feldt writes. "I started out in 1980, and massage and holistic health care were not well known … I was investing all of my money in training—traveling across country to find the best teachers I could—and had nothing left to rent an office by the month or by the hour."

The seed to work from home may have been planted in childhood. Feldt grew up watching her dad, a professor, bring work home and her mom, who worked in research and program evaluation, use the dining room table as a home office. When Feldt bought her Old West Side home, she had a home office in mind, and she has worked with clients there for over thirty-five years. "I was very motivated to have control over where I worked and lived. I didn't want to be subjected to rent increases, having to move, or what I could and couldn't do at a rental office."

There's one unequivocal pro: "The commute is fabulous!" But Feldt admits that the work-home division gets tricky. "Both a pro and a con—it is a much more personal exposure to my clients. I'm not a great housekeeper so they see that and it also inspired me to do better. I juggle parking so that people park in my driveway and not the street." And in the winter, "I buy more ice melter than I would otherwise."

Feldt also experiences a problem many people face, whether they work from home or not: "I love my work, but I have had trouble not being drawn back into it when I'm having personal time." She elaborates: "I haven't learned very well how to shake the feeling that there is always more to do. Because there always is, and I'm the only one who is responsible. I've learned to live with that and find peace, but it is certainly an ever present issue."

Overall, Feldt is pleased with her choice: she's able to pass on the savings from low overhead to her clients, grab an herb from the garden if a client needs it, and spend time with her dog. When she needs to get some writing done, Feldt seeks the inspiration of the trail while hiking in Arizona or the ambience of a coffee shop like Sweetwaters. "Sometimes I just need that focus or inspiration, or chocolate torte." ■

Holiday GUIDE

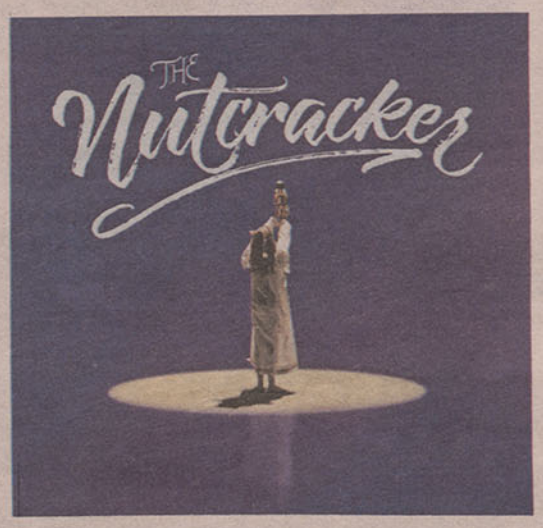
Discover, share, and savor the best of the holiday season!

Between the twinkling lights downtown on Main Street, annual tree lighting in Kerrytown, classic holiday films playing at the historic Michigan Theater, and local performances of *The Nutcracker* and The Boychoir of Ann Arbor– it's true that Ann Arbor is a special place during the holidays. Downtown walkers, while gracefully jumping over puddles of slush, will debate restaurant selections or boutique browsing stops. The city seems hopeful and helpful, with ringing bells and bustling streets full of bundled-up shoppers. Ann Arbor is the destination for the best local shopping, dining, and rich cultural events this winter. Compiled here is a list of the Observer's favorite shops, stops, and services this holiday. We hope you find something that speaks to you!

Delight in a holiday classic...

An occasion for the whole family

Begin your holiday season with a delightful rendition of the beloved holiday classic *The Nutcracker,* performed by the local Randazzo Dance Company with special guest dancers from the **Boston Ballet,** directed by Mikko Nissinen. Randazzo Dance Company is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing young local dancers the opportunity to perform, while encouraging appreciation for the fine arts and cultural pride in the community. New choreography performed by talented dancers is sure to get you and your family in the holiday spirit. Performances are held at Huron High School Auditorium on Saturday, December 3, at 2:00pm and 7:30pm, and Sunday, December 4, at 2:00pm.



Randazzo Dance Company

Huron High School Auditorium 2727 Fuller Rd, Ann Arbor • Tickets: randazzodancecompany.com

Celebrate the Season!

Discover something new and unique

Castle Remedies homeopathic pharmacy offers homeopathic kits and classes, nutritional & herbal supplements, and much more. Check out Ann Arbor's best-kept secret for unique gifts in Castle Remedies fun boutique stocked full of handmade purses, cashmere, wool and silk scarves, mittens crafted from recycled sweaters, Himalayan salt lamps, jewelry, and an array of stocking stuffers.

Castle Remedies

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Share the sweet sound of music

Celebrate your favorite sounds of the season with a King's Keyboard piano. Pianos make the holiday brighter, livelier, and more fun! Family owned and operated since 1961, King's offers new and pre-owned uprights, grands, and digitals. King's Keyboard believes that music education is a vital part of life at any age, and offers piano lessons by certified piano instructors for adults and children. Two free lessons offered with purchase of any piano. Give the gift of music this year with a large assortment of piano sheet music and books, as well as music accessories and gifts.

King's Keyboard House

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Home is where the heart is

A place for family & friends to gather

Serving Ann Arbor for more than 14 years, locally owned and operated All About Furniture is a great option when shopping sectionals, media rooms, recliners, office furniture, lighting, rugs, and more. Prepare your home for holiday guests with 100% U.S. Organic Certified mattresses and beautiful Amish furniture from their family to yours. Shop the 20,000 square foot showroom now through the end of the year for 10% off all Amish furniture.

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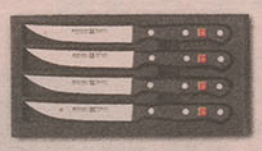

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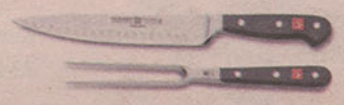

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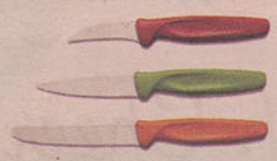

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www.ArborVacuum.com

Unexpected treasures...

Shop local this holiday at 16 Hands Gallery!

Representing both emerging talent and well known artists and makers, 16 Hands in Kerrytown Market and Shops has a vast selection of original, finely crafted objects of uncommon quality and character. Explore this local shop and gallery this holiday and find that great entryway piece, unique wearable accessory, jewelry, or great tabletop piece. The "Hello" hanger is a great piece for your guests to hang their hat, scarf, or purse. Crafted of sturdy metal, this clever rack is available in gray or yellow and includes mounting hardware. Locally made pottery by One Acre Ceramics offers superbly crated tabletop pieces including mugs, teapots, salt and pepper shakers, candlesticks, and more. As functional as they are beautiful, they are available in an array of colors and the glaze has a luscious, velvety finish. Clearly made by human hands, these pieces make the perfect gift for anyone on your list.

16 Hands

Kerrytown Market & Shops, 407 N. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor
734.761.1110 • 16handsgallery.com

Support your artist neighbors

You are invited to join an exciting day of art and good energy, strolling from house to house around the West Side of Ann Arbor. Westside Art Hop is a neighborhood art fair hosted in local homes, studios, porches, and yards on Saturday, December 10, from 11:00am to 5:00pm, and Sunday, December 11, from noon to 4:00pm. Beautiful, unique, and reasonably priced handmade arts and crafts are offered at Westside Art Hop, an event created by artists supporting artists. Media include painting, prints, photography, blown and fused glass, jewelry, small sculptures, greeting cards, mosaics, and various fiber arts. Maps are available online at WestsideArtHop.weebly.com, and from each venue at the event.

Westside Art Hop

West Side of Ann Arbor, centered around 700 Mt. Vernon Ave. • Map information: Facebook.com/WestsideArtHop and WestsideArtHop.weebly.com • WestsideArtHop@Gmail.com

Fill Their Stockings with Cheer!

Found: an unexpected collection for the holidays!

Explore a creative mix of new and old at Found in Ann Arbor's historic Kerrytown neighborhood. You will find something for everyone on your list when you shop the unexpected collection of fun stocking stuffers, handmade jewelry, vintage modern home accents, art supplies, and fun do-dads. Every November and December, Found is transformed into a holiday wonderland full of beautiful holiday décor. Local artist Sarah Stanton will be featured at the Oxidized Sterling Jewelry Trunk Show on Friday, December 16, from 5:00–8:00pm, and all day on December 17. Check out #foundgallery on Instagram and Facebook to view the ever-changing assortment of retro and vintage industrial finds throughout the season.

Found

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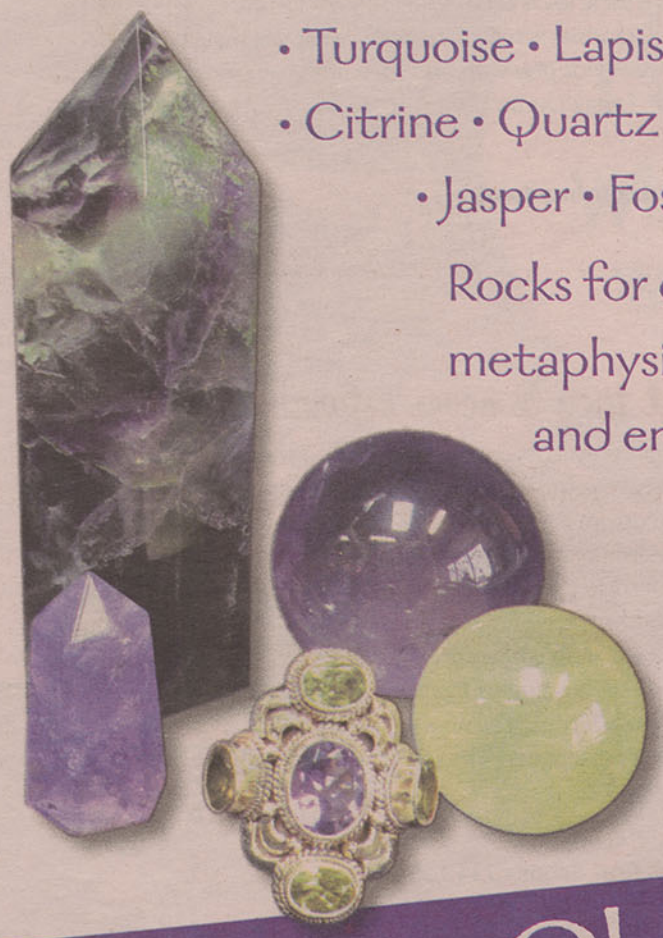

Store Closing Sale

Shop Midnight Madness Dec 2nd

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407 N. Fifth Ave. • Kerrytown Market & Shops
Ann Arbor • 734.663.2628 • PrincessDesignsJewelry.com

Surprise and Delight...

All the best stuff!

Shop creative toys, games, and books for everyone on your holiday gift list at Mudpuddles in Kerrytown Market and Shops. This award winning specialty toy store is filled with smart and creative toys and games for all ages. Each toy is personally selected by owners Jan and Aiden – they even make sure to play with everything before it goes into the store! Jan's favorite new find? Liquid Floor Tiles! These 20x20 squares of mesmerizing, colorful, ever-changing floor art are so durable you can actually tile your floor with them. Everyone loves them, especially babies and toddlers, who are fascinated by the ooey-gooey motion. Grandpas will definitely ask: "what will they come up with next?" Mudpuddles cares about what your kids play with, and their offerings reflect that belief. Shop 20% off storewide during Midnight Madness on Friday, December 2, 10:00am–midnight (excludes Legos).

Mudpuddles

407 N. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor • 734.662.0022 • kerrytown.com/mudpuddles

Savor the season and let us serve you

A staple in Ann Arbor since 1978, cozy Afternoon Delight offers delicious food, friendly service, and reasonable prices. Afternoon Delight wants to cater your holiday this season, allowing you more time with your guests and less time in the kitchen! Professional catering services are available for any size party, and their knowledgeable staff can help you create a menu perfect for your event. Offering healthy food that tastes great, stop by to satisfy your enormous pan-grilled pancake craving, or check out the extensive menu including customized three-egg omelets, endless salad bar, and fresh deli sandwiches made to order

Afternoon Delight

251 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor • 734.665.7513 • afternoondelightcafe.com

The gift they'll never return!

If you want a gift they'll never return, look no further than Kilwins in Ann Arbor. Located in the heart of downtown, just steps away from Main Street, Kilwin's offers custom boxes of exceptional handmade chocolates just under the twin orange awnings. Mackinac Island Fudge, yummy corns and brittles, and hand-paddled fudge are also available daily. Shop baskets and tins this season that are a perfect gift for anyone on your list, and see why Kilwins has been a celebrated part of Ann Arbor for over 30 years.

Kilwins

107 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor • 734.769.7759
kilwins.com

Give back to our community!

Help Kiwanis help kids! Give back to the children in our community this holiday season with the Kiwanis Thrift Sale's annual Holiday Savings Event. Saleable donations are welcome at the downtown location December 2, 3, & 10, and the west location every Friday and Saturday from November 11– December 17. If you are unable to drop off, simply call Kiwanis and they will pick up your donation. Over 20,000 square feet are designated to large items—particularly indoor, outdoor, business furniture, sport and exercise gear, toys, kitchen and household ware, and home decorations. Clothing is available at the downtown location. Get into the holiday spirit by dropping off your charitable donations no longer needed so others can enjoy them this season. Perhaps you will pick up some goodies of your own while you're there! Share your photos and check for updates on Instagram and Facebook with #kidsneedkiwanis.

Kiwanis Thrift Sale Downtown

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Ten Thousand Villages

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Family-owned Abracadabra Jewelry and Gem Gallery has been an Ann Arbor source for beautiful and unique pieces since 1974. Explore curated collections from local artists, national designers, and fair trade jewelry from around the world and find a piece that speaks to you this holiday. Ethical gemstones and diamonds are offered, as well as recycled metals in all price points for every shopper. Abracadabra offers onsite jewelry repair, vintage restoration, and custom design.

Abracadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery

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Traditions to Share...

The Gift of Entertainment Always Gets Applause!

PHOTO: JOAN MARCUS

MSU's Wharton Center offers a great way to spend time with family at **Mannheim Steamroller Christmas** & **A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.** Tickets make great gifts—including tickets to the musical story of the chart-topping legend **Beautiful—The Carole King Musical;** Broadway stars Jarrod Spector & Kelli Barret, concert of love songs; and the winner of five Tony Awards®, **The Curious Incident of The Dog In The Night-Time.**

PHOTO: JOAN MARCUS

Can't decide? Easy-to-buy, easy-to-use Wharton Gift Cards are available, good toward the ticket purchase of 300+ shows at MSU's Wharton Center!

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Wharton Center for Performing Arts, Michigan State University

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing • 517.353.1982 • whartoncenter.com

Memories to Make

A Boychoir Christmas

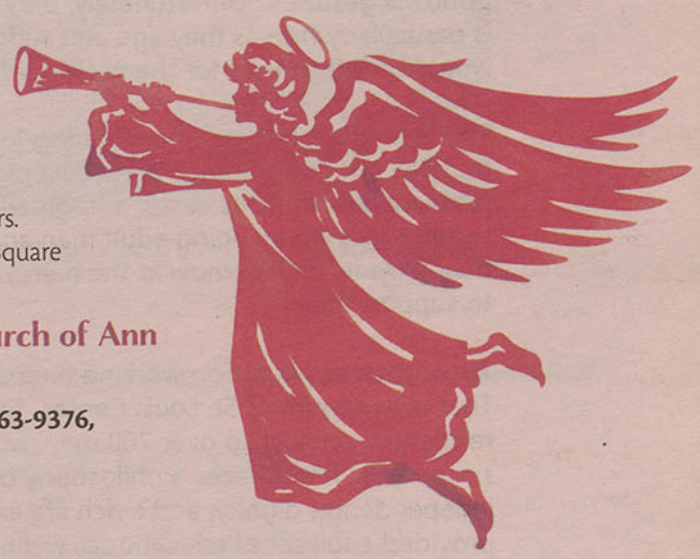
Experience the unique and glorious sound of The Boychoir of Ann Arbor this holiday season. This year marks the 30th annual presentation of "A Boychoir Christmas", a wonderful holiday musical tradition for the whole family. Featuring a variety of Christmas hymns and carols, this local choir of boys ages 8–18 are sure to get you and your family in the holiday spirit. The choral sound of the Boychoir will delight and thrill young and old alike. Two performances: Friday, December 9, 7:00pm, at First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti. Saturday, December 9, 3:00pm, at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor.

The Boychoir of Ann Arbor

1100 N. Main St., Ann Arbor
734.663.5377 • tickets@aaboychoir.org • aaboychoir.org

Join us for a special Christmas Eve!

Come celebrate a special Christmas Eve service with music and readings in the King's College tradition at First Baptist's Festival of Lessons and Carols. Based upon the annual presentation in Cambridge, readings from the Christmas story are alternated with choral and congregational singing of carols. Service begins at 7:30pm, with free childcare for infants through kindergarteners. Parking in the Liberty Square parking structure.



First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor

517 E. Washington, 663-9376,
www.fbca2.org

HELP BUILD THE
St. Louis Guanella Village
A COMMUNITY FOR ALL ABILITIES

An open letter to the greater community of Ann Arbor from Norman Neuman, Jr., Co-Chair, St. Louis Center Legacy Campaign Committee (pictured at left with his son Joe):

When I retired some fifteen years ago, my wife Kathi and I decided that we would focus our retirement years on helping children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) such as Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and others. Both Kathi and I are very involved in supporting St. Louis Center in Chelsea, MI, home to over fifty children and adults with I/DD. We have a son with Down Syndrome. Joe is 45 years old and lives in a condominium in Ann Arbor. He spends nearly every weekend and most of the summer with us. He loves to play golf with me in the summer and drive a snowmobile in the winter. He is very charming and fun to be around.

$10M Legacy Campaign Goal

$7.3M raised

But, like all adults with I/DD, Joe requires a great deal of life skills support. While he is in good health, many of his older peers are experiencing a quickening decline in health, and more saddening, they are losing their parents who were their lifeline. Fortunately for our son, there are plans in place to take care of him well after Kathi and I are gone. Unfortunately, that is not the case for the majority of adults with I/DD. Many loving and caring parents are not financially able to provide long term care for their adult child after they are gone. The necessary planning was never done by the parent or by government agencies. Historically adults with I/DD passed away well before their parents did. As a result, many parents thought that they would outlive their child, but in fact, with much better health care readily available and the children living more active lives, they are now outliving their parents.

These adults with I/DD, now without parents to look after them, face a crisis of major proportions. Most are unable to communicate their plight and many become wards of the state, often being shuffled from one place to another. Can you imagine what that would be like for one of your children to go through after you passed away? Someone needs to be their advocate and take responsibility for guiding and supporting them for the rest of their lives.

I am writing to you because individuals with I/DD for the most part do not have a voice and cannot articulate their situation. They live simple lives. They are not demanding. They are appreciative and react with a sincere loving smile or hug to the smallest of goodwill gestures. Unfortunately, they are also defenseless and have no way of describing their unique needs to anyone. This is particularly true as they age and suddenly require specialized care. If it weren't for our goodwill and generosity, these adults would be left to fend for themselves which they cannot do.

This is an issue facing families caring for children and adults with I/DD and all of us who care so deeply for them. It is a subject that has not gotten much press coverage even though it is a serious problem and, in some cases, a tragic situation. I personally know of recent cases where aging adult men and woman with I/DD have lost their parents and are now at the mercy of a system that is ill-equipped to support them.

There is an organization working on a solution to this major crisis. That organization is St. Louis Center. St. Louis Center has provided residential services to over 700 men, women, and children with I/DD since 1960. It embraces a philosophy of care and services promoting independence, dignity, and a rich life experience. Residents are provided a full set of educational, wellness, and spiritual programs including nursing care, fitness, gardening, adaptive dance, and music therapy. Transportation is provided to school and work, medical appointments, religious services, etc.

St. Louis Guanella Village is under construction

In 2010, when celebrating St. Louis Center's fiftieth anniversary, we began working on a strategic plan for the next fifty years. It was decided that we would build specialized residential housing that offers families with children and adults with I/DD a safe environment with assisted living and nursing care as a primary focus. Out of that thinking and planning came "The Legacy Campaign," with a goal of raising $10M in capital funding. The Legacy Campaign Committee has raised over $7.3M, leaving $2.7M to go.

Over the next several years, we will complete the construction of the St. Louis Guanella Village, a residential community for men, women, and children with I/DD and their families. A unique service feature of the Village is that it will accommodate families caring for children of all ages with I/DD, including older adult children. Today many parents and their older adult children with special needs require assisted living care. These families will now be able to move into the Village and receive these services. Offering living arrangements of this type will keep families together, as many have been together all their lives. Can you imagine the heartbreak both the parent and child would go through if they were to be separated? The last thing we want to do is to tear a family apart just because of age-related issues. The Village is now under construction on the Center's existing 180 acres. When completed, the Village will have single family homes, townhomes, a fitness center, chapel, and shopping facilities integrated into a safe, fully functioning community.

Meeting this challenge is a huge task. We have had wonderful support raising our initial Campaign funds from our many friends and benefactors, including foundations and corporations. Now we are reaching out to the greater community of Ann Arbor to support this Mission of Mercy. Please consider making a donation to our Legacy Campaign. We need funding for assisted living homes for our aging residents with I/DD who are in need of specialized care.

Please pass this message along to any of your friends who you feel would have the compassion and generosity to make a donation to this very worthy cause. Thank you very much.

Norman Neuman, Jr.
Co-Chair, St. Louis Center Legacy Campaign Committee

For more information about the St. Louis Guanella Village or the Legacy Campaign, please contact: Peggy Cole, Development Director, at (734) 475.8430 or peggyc@stlouiscenter.org.

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DECEMBER IS DESSERT MONTH

CHEF'S TABLE BY HARRIET SEAVER

I think of desserts as "fond memory" foods. Growing up you remember something Mom, Dad or Grandma made for special occasions or on holidays. They take on significance; they become a family tradition.

We always had my mom's homemade brownies for Memorial Day and Fourth of July picnics. In the words of my uncle, she then "gilded the lily," covering them with homemade chocolate frosting. That was my inspiration for our Brownie Deliciousness dessert. Now it's even better since my son in-law makes the cinnamon ice cream we put on top!

I also lean towards sharing desserts (mainly because I can't finish one on my own). Still, my meal isn't complete until I've had a bite or two of something sweet.

It may seem a little strange to think of Tios in terms of desserts, but even if you don't have time for dinner, we are a great place to come for a really good drink and a memorable, share-able dessert.

BAKER'S CORNER
BY JESSICA GERSTENBERGER

I am extremely proud of the desserts we offer at Tios. The flan, churros, sopapillas, and tres leches cake: all are unique, delicious, and give a nod to the traditional. These desserts are relatively new to Tios. They were all added when we changed locations in 2009. If you want a taste of nostalgia, try something that's been on our menu since 1986 — a milkshake. I know it's not necessarily "authentic" but it's authentically Tios! We have over 15 flavors to choose from and you can mix and match to your heart's content.

HOT HEAD MONTHLY
BY TIM SEAVER

It's candy season. The only place in the world you can get Tios Spicy Cashew Brittle is here in Ann Arbor. We make it by hand in small batches from our own secret family recipe. It was passed down from my wife's mother and I've added my own special twist.

Every year I get a customer coming back for more because the initial purchase didn't make it home. It's unique, wonderful and addictive; a special treat.

We will have it available through the holidays and into the New Year. Samples are available in the restaurant. Come in and try some!

FATHER TEQUILA
BY JEREMY SEAVER

Pairing tequila with dessert is a great idea anytime, but especially now in the winter months when chocolate reigns supreme on after-dinner menus. Usually I would recommend an añejo as a digestif. Out of all the tequila expressions, añejos have the most barrel flavor, and the tannins from the oak can help settle the stomach. The problem is that sometimes a heavy oak presence can overpower the roasted agave and natural sweetness of the tequila; that sweetness being the compliment to the dessert. Here is where a reposado can really shine. They can provide that perfect balance between oak and agave.

Enter Roca Patron Reposado. Made in small batches, the agave is crushed in the traditional fashion as opposed to shredded, which is the practice currently in vogue. The result is that none of the agave's bitter skin makes it into the mash. Vanilla on the nose, ginger, lemon and caramel flavors peek through on the tongue. It's a great tequila to pair with dessert and we're currently featuring it in our Bullwinkle Margarita, which contains white chocolate mousse (get it? mousse, Bullwinkle? If you aren't old enough to get that reference, I don't like you anyway). It's creamy, chocolatey, and decadent. Treat yourself — trust me. If you don't like it, I will finish it myself (it's that good)!

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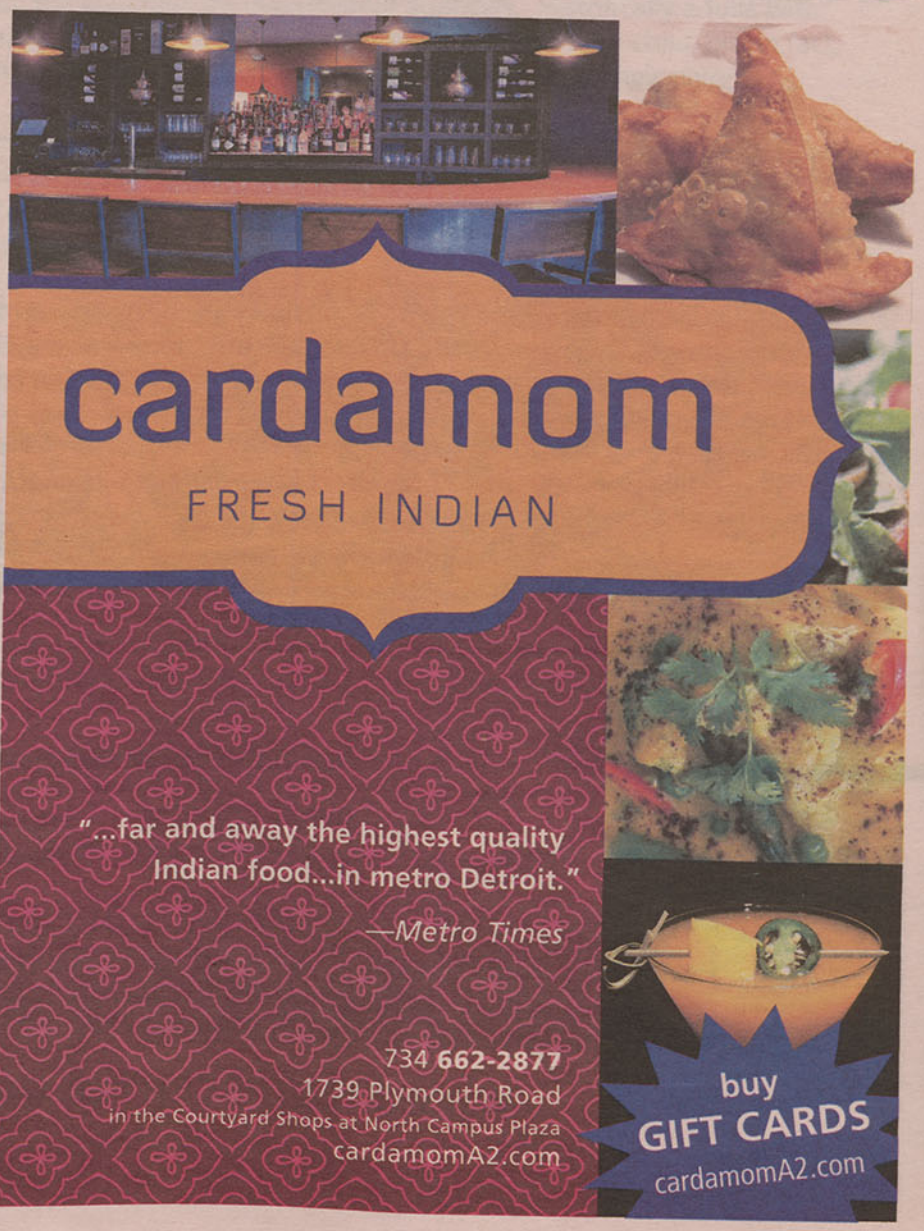

Mikette

Remembered pleasures

What did I love about Mikette? To begin with, the design. Adam Baru has done a splendid job renovating strip mall blandness into a stylized suggestion of a French bistro, not cleaving so tightly to the stereotype as to be cutesy or kitschy but close enough to be cozy and warm.

I was a commuter to the small residential college I attended, a visitor, essentially, to a village where everyone already knew one another. The commute was long, so I often spent long hours on campus between classes. Occasionally, as a treat, I'd go to a nearby restaurant, where I'd order a spinach salad and French onion soup.

I would sit alone, waiting quietly for my food, unsure of where to look or how to fold my hands, pretending it was absolutely natural for me to be there alone. I would eat slowly, carefully, willing the slippery onions not to slide off my spoon onto my lap, or the long strings of gooey cheese to dangle out the corner of my mouth. I could only hope no flecks of spinach became wedged between my teeth.

Still, I loved the beefy broth, the toasted croutons, the pungent cheese, the metallic taste of the spinach. To me, they epitomized delicious and stylishly sophisticated dining. I even once persuaded my dad to meet me at the restaurant for lunch—only to have him rather scornfully declare that neither soup nor salad was very good. He was—particularly then—a rather simple foods kind of guy.

When I started cooking seriously, I made Julia Child's French onion soup, starting with the slow browning of meaty bones for broth, fortifying it with generous splashes of booze, and ending up with a warm, satisfying bowl that tasted exactly like the restaurant's. I haven't eaten it much since. But when friends learned I was reviewing Mikette, Adam Baru's French-style bistro in the Courtyard Shops on Plymouth Rd., they told me its version of my old favorite was delicious.

Mikette is Baru's latest venture, after Mani Osteria and Isalita. (The waitress chuckled, without reply, when I jokingly asked her what country we might all be visiting next if Baru opens a fourth restaurant.) One night this fall my husband and I, sitting at Mikette's marble bar, ordered the French onion soup.

The bowl delivered pure nostalgia, exactly what I remembered from my youth. Yet it didn't thrill me. The fault, I think, was not in the execution but in my own changing tastes—I simply don't love French onion soup anymore. Those that do, though, will be quite happy slurping a bowl at Mikette, particularly during this winter season.

What did I love about Mikette? To begin with, the design. Baru has done a splendid job renovating strip mall blandness into a stylized suggestion of a French bistro, not cleaving so tightly to the stereotype as to be cutesy or kitschy but close enough to be cozy and warm. Rather than hanging from the walls, vintage posters act as a partial ceiling below the exposed steel joists. Framed photos include iconic Gallic scenes alongside shots of coiffed and bedazzled French poodles. Rough-sawn wood floors, brick walls, red banquettes, and mismatched light fixtures add to the inviting set. The heated red canopy Baru added to the front of the building is reminiscent of those lining the boulevards of Paris, adding space and seats to small bistros. Mikette's does the same, as does the patio wedged next to the restaurant's west side; hidden from Plymouth Rd., it was a surprisingly pleasant place to eat dinner in early fall.

Service was experienced and well trained. Baru has brought over seasoned servers from his older restaurants, but even newer ones were well informed, knowledgeable, efficient, and friendly. As to be expected, the alcohol menu highlights French options but doesn't neglect to offer a few other choices; the wine list, particularly, though not extensive, has many interesting gems.

Which leads us, finally, back to Mikette's food. It's not all perfect but often quite good, with dishes we could happily eat any night of the week.

Late one evening, sitting at a secluded high-top near the edge of the bar, we started with *gougères*, warm popovers,

ILLUSTRATIONS: JOHN COPLEY

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often served as an hors d'oeuvre and usually flavored with Gruyère but here with Parmesan and black pepper. Expecting a plate of five or six miniature puffs, I was surprised to receive two decadent, baseball-sized orbs veiled in a gossamer dusting of cheese. The outside lightly crispy, the inside soft, silky, and luxurious, they were wonderful, especially with the bottle of rosé we were drinking. Next came *haricots verts*, thin green beans too crunchy from too little cooking but nicely accented with hazelnuts and red onion slices. Better were charred whole beets, one gold, one purple, roasted in their skins and then lightly smashed, dressed with a sharp, herby salsa *verde* and a slick of insipid *boursin* crème. Although beets and goat cheese have become a cliché, here I think the more pungent cheese would have been a better counterpoint to the vegetable's earthiness.

Finally, the waitress delivered the Nemo Plateau. French bistros often feature platters—*plateaux*—of raw and cooked seafood, usually on a bed of ice and adorned with various sauces for dipping and pouring. Mikette follows suit with two sizes. The Nemo is the smaller and, augmented with a couple of salads or sides, is sufficient as dinner for two. We had six lovely, briny East Coast oysters (oddly, Mikette doesn't name them), chilled jumbo shrimp, and Jonah crab claws (both disappointingly dry and tasteless), an incredibly delicious if tiny bit of scallop ceviche, and an equally impressive few inches of king crab leg, slathered with a zesty ginger rémoulade. Dessert finished us off, literally and figuratively—a silky crème brûlée, two dry lemon madeleines, and an overly sweet if massive serving of raspberry-chocolate sorbet. We left the restaurant after closing, comfortable and happy.

A week or so later, during another dinner, we tried that fondly remembered French onion soup, along with a ramekin of escargots, done in a modern fashion. We both found the little guys luscious, drowning, along with some mushrooms, in juices heavily flavored with hazelnut butter and Chartreuse liqueur. We reordered dishes we had eaten with friends earlier in the season—beef *bourguignonne* made with short ribs and roast chicken Provençal on a bed of shoestring fries. The succulent stew was still richly satisfying, though it needs to be served with many more egg noodles in a wide, shallow bowl—not a deep ramekin—for the sauce to be properly savored and appreciated. (The hunk of bread that is served isn't what either of us wanted.) The chicken, which earlier had been without peer, was this time just okay, underseasoned and under-sauced.

The first time we ate that chicken, four of us shared the plate. It came out, a half bird, mostly boned, juicy, herby, buttery, surrounded by fries that had soaked up the copious juices. We devoured that chicken, even after already having finished scallop ceviche and escargot, snappy Moroccan meatballs, an eggplant tagine that wasn't really a braise but was nicely done nonetheless, and a ridiculously enormous *foie* parfait—a satiny, buttery spread of liver pâté served in an ice cream sundae glass. And we still had more to come—a garlicky shrimp, beef *bourguignonne,* and a disappointing Lyonnaise salad, overly dressed with vinaigrette and with a paltry sprinkling of roasted potatoes.

What did I not love about Mikette? That Baru persists with the concept of small, shared plates, with dishes coming out when the kitchen finishes them, not necessarily when you want them. When the menu is mostly street food (Isalita) or light fare (Mani Osteria), this makes sense, but Mikette's menu is fairly traditional, with dishes that suggest appetizers and entrées, no matter what the headings say. Although it requires greater discipline for the line cooks to time dishes to come out in unison and in courses, restaurant kitchens have done so for decades; I'm not sure why they still can't. Nor does everyone want to share her dinner—especially when it's a burger or a roast chicken or *steak frites*. After our first visit I did insist that dishes come out in a certain order, but I'm not sure that will always work, especially for larger tables.

But really, I'm quite pleased to finally have a neighborhood restaurant on our side of town, one with good food and drink, a welcoming haven for lone diners and families, for weeknights and nights of celebration. We have both in Mikette.

— Lee Lawrence

Mikette Bistro and Bar
1759 Plymouth Rd.
436–4363
mikettea2.com

Raw bar $2–$60; appetizers, soups, salads $5–$15; large plates $10–$22

Tues.–Sat. 4:30–10 p.m., Sun 4:30–9 p.m. Closed Mon.

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Selden Standard

Fresh from the farm to big in Detroit

Selden Standard on Second Ave. in Detroit is riding a wave of popularity, so dinner visits may begin with a brief wait even if, as I did, you made a reservation in advance (and responded to their call the previous day to confirm). Aisles are narrow because tables fill every available space, plus there's a huge wood-fired oven at the back of the wood-paneled dining room.

The good news is that just standing at a high-top table near the bar has rewards. You get a close look at the apothecary-like counter of glass jars brimming with deep-hued house-made syrups and bitters made

It's admirable and inspiring how Selden Standard succeeds right to the final dessert course, with savory-sweet rich brown-butter ice cream, light and lovely cider sorbet with sage crumble, even fluffy cinnamon-sugared doughnuts.

from Concord grapes, berries, citrus, and herbs (kind of like at The Last Word in Ann Arbor). Selden's craft cocktails have intriguing names like Civil Disobedience and Big-Leaf Daisy. They arrive in elegant thin-stemmed glasses and jewel-like shades to set the tone for a special kind of dinner party.

Presentation is important here but not showy. Labor-intensive preparations with a traditional "from scratch" bent emphasize quality, freshness, and the flavor of the ingredients, many of them sourced from twenty different Michigan farms and producers named on the menu. Entrée components tend to be layered rather than combined: a topping dollop of house-made ricotta on chicken and greens, a bed of celery root purée under the seared swordfish.

For appetizers, the layered and molded vegetable carpaccio tower of shaved crudités and Parmesan in soft pinks and beiges stands out for beautiful simplicity. The charred octopus plate is popular for good reason, as chefs manage to keep great flavor and texture in the delectable, just chewy fish, which gets a light Moroccan-style saucing, along with a scoop of garbanzos and a bit of sausage, all atop super-crispy red pepper slivers. However, we should have ordered two of the $16 octopus plates as an appetizer for four, because each has only about six bites to it. (The big platter of pita and veggie purées would be a more economical starter to share, at $10.) Surprisingly appealing salt cod fritters, which pair to perfection with accompanying smoked peppers and aioli, are also filling and generously portioned. In a rare miss, I didn't love the roasted cauliflower small plate, mainly because the dressing of tahini and pickled chilis overwhelmed the vegetable's subtle nutty flavor—the sprinkle of cilantro didn't help, either.

I know people who order short ribs every time they have the chance at Selden—in hash at brunch or grilled at dinner with whatever root vegetable, *chimichurri,* or *mole* they meet on that day's menu. Why? "They just have a way with them—they make them really meaty and filling," one explained when I asked.

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Grilled whole Michigan trout is another very substantial dish, which arrives with head intact (for tender cheek meat aficionados) and crackly, blackened skin. Expertly deboned prior to serving, the very fresh fish is a treat in itself, made even better by accompaniments of grilled lemons, pine nuts, and Brussels sprouts flavor-ripened by intense heat and sweetness from a golden raisin sauce. The plate looks like a Dutch master could have painted it.

Selden manages to pull off a broad canvas of flavors with minimal clashes, and that's much appreciated when ordering multiple small plates to share. Middle Eastern, African, and Italian touches generally play nicely together here. After two visits and sampling many excellent dishes and some extraordinary ones, I felt confident trying the mundane-sounding pumpkin pasta; sure enough, it was wonderful, with a just-right, barely doughy texture. Grilled scallions in *Romesco* sauce and kale and date salad with gouda and almonds remain to be tried.

It's admirable and inspiring how Selden Standard succeeds right to the final dessert course, with savory-sweet rich brown-butter ice cream, light and lovely cider sorbet with sage crumble, even fluffy cinnamon-sugared doughnuts. They're all made in house, as are the sauces, breads, and pretty much everything we asked about.

Ironically, at the same time I was forking into Selden's charred octopus plate in Detroit, the *New York Times* was going to press with a Sunday Travel section mini-review of the "hyper-local" cuisine at Spencer in Ann Arbor, which featured a postcard-size photo of a grilled octopus and garbanzo plate you can get on Liberty St. It had already occurred to me that Spencer was Ann Arbor's closest counterpart to Selden in the campaign to exalt seasonal fare with the small-plates approach to multi-continental influences.

If you'd like to explore further in that vein and find out for yourself why Selden Standard is the reigning *Hour Detroit* magazine restaurant of the year, consider adding a couple hours for a meal there on your next DIA visit or other Detroit cultural excursion. Don't forget to make a reservation well in advance.

—M.B. Lewis

Selden Standard
3921 Second Ave., Detroit
(313) 438–5055
seldenstandard.com

Pasta and vegetable small plates $7–$16, meat and fish main dishes $12– $30, dessert $6–$11.

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table talk

"It is easy to imagine that well over half of the town's most interesting business deals, new relationships, heart-to-heart conversations, and entrepreneurial ventures … benefitted from, or were influenced by, one of the restaurants that appear in the following pages."

So writes Zingmaster Ari Weinzweig in his intro to the new, photo-rich paperback ***Iconic Restaurants of Ann Arbor.*** I found it helpful for time travel through many long-lived culinary landmarks I've heard about (and in some cases read about in novels of Marge Piercy and others) but had arrived in town too late to experience.

Indeed, the book has photos and tales from the fifty-five-year reign of the Sugar Bowl ice cream and penny candy shop at 109 S. Main and of the original Pretzel Bell (whose bells rang from the 1930s until the 1980s for athletic victories and to alert customers to phone calls). Montages evoke traditions borne over decades at Drake's, Mr. Flood's Party, the first Bimbo's, and Indian Summer natural foods.

But the stories of spectacular debacles are where co-authors Jon Milan and Gail Offen really shine. Have you ever heard of Lulu's Storyville Saloon, which in 1967 and 1968 brought in national jazz and folk acts and then suddenly went bust? How about La Seine, the one-year wonder that Lulu's replaced on S. Main—a French *haute cuisine* "cautionary tale" with Limoges china, crystal chandeliers, nine owners, and an employee named Ruth Reichl (who went on to become a superstar among culinary writers).

You can learn why Sze-Chuan West on W. Stadium had such an extreme stucco jungle cave decor: in its original life as Kales Waterfall Supper Club, it was designed in 1963 to woo and wow patrons with intimate nooks and a namesake thirty-five-foot burbling fountain.

The organization of the book is a bit haphazard, and the quality of the photos and illustrations varies. But there's plenty of intriguing info about spectacular successes and perhaps even more spectacular failures of yore. As local social history, it's a treat.

Iconic Restaurants of Ann Arbor is $22.99 at local bookstores or at arcadiapublishing.com.

—M.B. Lewis

The Zingerman's Times

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Roaster's Pick Coffee
holiday blend

For this year's Holiday Blend, Zingerman's Coffee started with their favorite estate coffees from from Central and South America. For complexity and balance, they added a touch of a small-lot coffee from Africa. The resulting blend has a rich, dark-chocolate character with a smooth body and hints of fruit. It's the kind of coffee you can drink day or night, at breakfast or with dessert, indoors, outdoors, with family and friends, or just by itself, as you sit fireside wrapped in a blanket. zcob.me/roasterspick

Cheese of the Month
manchester

Drawing its origins from a soft-ripened double cream cheese along the Welsh-English border, but through process differences (both intentional and unintentional), no longer bears any resemblance to its very distant cousin. Through gentle pasteurization and slow culturing of the milk, the Manchester retains an amazing expression of the character of the milk used to make it. zcob.me/manchester

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Thinking about getting lunch for your whole team to ring in the New Year? Zingerman's has announced the Deli's annual catering Buy-One, Get-One Deal! From January 1 to February 28, when you place a catering order for pickup or delivery, you get your next order of equal or lesser value half off.

That could be bag lunches on Monday, lasagna on Wednesday or whatever suits your group, and you'll get half off the lesser order. Our sources report that this offer is good for orders that are picked up or delivered from January through the end of February, so customers can call and order as many times as they'd like. The Zingerman's *Times* encourages readers to visit zingermanscatering.com for more details.

zingtrain workshops & seminars: a time machine to your future

Shocking investigation reveals ZingTrain's top-secret time machine has been taking business leaders into the future for decades! Found to be the source of unimaginable inspiration and invigoration, ZingTrain's time machine has been "the" secret leaders have been using to create brilliant business and personal strategies all across the country. Thanks to our intrepid investigators, time travel is now available to the public at large!

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Upcoming Seminars and Workshops:

Managing Ourselves Seminar - Dec. 5th & 6th

ZingTrain Speaker Series with Ari Weinzweig: The Spirit of Generosity - Dec. 7th

Creating a Personal Vision Workshop - Dec. 8th

Creating a Vision of Greatness Seminar - Jan. 19th & 20th

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Expert party planners are brightening their holiday soirées with Zingerman's Creamery Holiday Cheeses! These fine cheeses were chosen specifically by the Creamery's expert cheesemongers to add to any holiday spread. Pre-order your cheeses today and in two-days time you can pick them up from Zingerman's Bakehouse.

ari's top picks 2016: a tasting event

Every year, Zingernauts dig through their notes and create a list of the absolute best tasting products around the Zingerman's Community of Businesses. Head Zingernaut, Ari Weinzweig, will lead an exploration and sampling of nearly 30 of these fantastic finds at Zingerman's Deli. Food experts assure the *Times* it will be a night of storytelling and tastebud euphoria. They're encouraging interested guests to sign up early–this event always sells out! zcob.me/toppicks16 December 7th, 14th, and 21st

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Our sources report that there are memories to be made at Zingerman's Cornman Farms! Gather your colleagues, your cousins, and your companions around the crackling fireplaces in the restored farmhouse to regale tales of holidays past over dinner prepared by Executive Chef Kieron Hales. Book your party today at: zcob.me/cmfholiday

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Marketplace Changes

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Unyeon Choi bought the restaurant from her best friend, Kim Sunghee, then recast its pan-Asian menu.

Saigon Bistro Is Now One Bowl

Expanding the Asian horizon

One Bowl, an Asian bistro at 1220 S. University, opened its doors (which actually face S. Forest), on July 6, in the deadest time of the year on campus. Owner Unyeon Choi bought the restaurant from her best friend, Kim Sunghee, after waitressing there for three years. She decided to continue the old Saigon Bistro menu for longtime customers who love Chinese food, but she added Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese specialties as entrées—all served in large bowls.

"I have always loved cooking," Choi says. "My mother taught me when I was very young. And we believe that good friends share good food." She tweaked the menu over the summer while painting the walls with soothing browns and beiges, arranging tables and chairs, and hanging art from Michigan artists. "Decorating is my favorite thing to do," she says—fortunately so, because business in July and August was "very, very slow."

That worried her. "There were days when I was the only one here, cooking, greeting, waiting on tables, and cleaning up—and I had time to spare. But now that the students and professors have returned to campus and found us, business is very good—and getting better," she says, welcoming early lunch customers one fall day. "I love people, and I love making new relationships. I want to make people happy, to give them a warm, homey, cozy place to eat and stay to meet friends or read a book. Food helps us make new friends and sustain old friendships."

Choi is on hand daily from early morning to midnight. "It's a hard schedule," she says, "but I love running my own restaurant." When she can catch her breath, she plans to add more Asian specialties to the menu.

After studying fashion design in Rochester, New York, the Korean native married and moved to Ann Arbor in 1999. Her two children—Sarah Jessica and Daniel David—make frequent appearances at One Bowl, which is truly a family enterprise. Her mother, Soonnam, until recently divided her time between Korea and Ann Arbor; she has just applied for a green card so she can supervise the kitchen. Unyeon's brother Kisun and friend Nori both cook. Unyeon's sister, Soyeon Jiyeon, manages the restaurant. Another friend, MSU professor Masumi Hamada, does the books. The eight members of the waitstaff include Korean and Chinese natives who often welcome customers in their native languages.

The menu features Hunan and Szechuan specialties, as well as Korean (*bulgogi* BBQ and spicy pork, beef and chicken dishes), Japanese (chicken, pork, and vegetable *tonkatsu*), and Vietnamese (pho-based) best-sellers. Several dishes are vegan. To Choi's surprise, One Bowl's most popular selections are the Korean and Vietnamese specialties, particularly the Pho Basic, in which rice noodles, herbs, and aromatic beef float in broth, to which customers add bean sprouts and a squeeze of fresh lime juice. "We make pho [broth] the traditional way, with my family's old recipe," Choi says.

Early on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, she heads to the Farmers Market, where she purchases fresh ingredients for her recipes. "I can find everything I need there—herbs, sprouts, vegetables, even the decorations I hang on the walls of One Bowl."

She greets a regular customer in Korean, ushers her over to the nearest waiter, then glances around her restaurant proudly. As part of the redo, she lined the walls with inspirational quotes that, she explains, "say who I am and what I believe":

Always find time for the things that make you feel happy to be alive.
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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"If you add anything to a site, you have to add [storm water] detention to the whole lot," says city planner Matt Kowalski—and Maple Village's owner wants to add a new 4,000-square-foot building next to HomeGoods.

talking, relaxing, enjoying themselves," Choi says. "Some customers have been coming here for twenty years. I hope they come for many years into the future.

Choi is on hand daily from early morning to midnight. "It's a hard schedule," she says, "but I love running my own restaurant." When she can catch her breath, she plans to add more Asian specialties to the menu.

One Bowl, 1220 S. University, 747–7006. Mon.–Fri., 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.

Maple Village's New Look

The parking lot as environmental amenity

Outside, shopping carts line up neatly at the new **HomeGoods** as shoppers bustle in and out of the recent addition to Maple Village. Inside is just about every home decoration imaginable—from gourmet coffee and treats to seasonal items to throw pillows to serving dishes to pet gifts.

Next door, the upscale **Stein Mart** is just as well stocked, a throwback to clothing stores of the past—with men's and ladies' dressy clothing and casual wear, intimates, hosiery and shoes, and even a small section with some items carried by its next-door neighbor.

The remodeled Maple Village's parking lot also looks a lot better than it did during Kmart's long reign here. It's prettier, with tree-filled islands dotted across what was once an unbroken sea of asphalt. But the aesthetic improvement is actually secondary: the design change is mostly due to city and county regulations.

City planner Matt Kowalski explains that when Maple Village was constructed in the 1960s, there were no storm water detention requirements—all the rain that fell on the buildings and parking lot ran straight into the city's storm sewers.

"Those retaining islands that you see actually meet the [city's] landscaping guidelines," Kowalski explains. "And also they have an indentation in them that will fill up with water, so it meets the county [stormwater] requirements as well."

Now, "you can't let the water flow into the drain like you could back then," Kowalski says. "It must infiltrate back into the ground, or [the site must] at least hold it and release it slowly back into the storm system."

Maple Village was grandfathered under the old rules, because previous remodelings and store changes didn't alter its footprint. But "if you add anything to a site, you have to add [storm water] detention to the whole lot," Kowalski says—and Maple Village's owner, Brixmor Property Group, wants to add a new 4,000-square-foot building next to HomeGoods. That required updating both the storm water retention, controlled by the county, and the landscaping, which must meet city code. That made things very complicated and expensive.

While the landscaping is generally more affordable, putting in large basins and/or underground pipes to upgrade the storm water can be cost prohibitive. Fortunately, the city and county worked jointly with Brixmor to come up with a solution.

"Those retaining islands that you see actually meet the landscaping guidelines," Kowalski explains. "And also they have an indentation in them that will fill up with water, so it meets the county requirements as well."

While shoppers are admiring the attractive retention islands, they might notice that the English Gardens building is empty; its lease expired in November. According to Brixmor, there is no new tenant at this time.

HomeGoods, 215 N. Maple Rd., ste. B (Maple Village), 761–6941. Mon.–Sat. 9:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–8 p.m. homegoods.com

Stein Mart, 215 N. Maple Rd. (Maple Village), 761–6916. Mon., Wed., & Sat. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. steinmart.com

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Marketplace **Changes**

By the Pound Finds a Home

But Back Alley Gourmet is still searching

When we asked **By the Pound** owner Glenn Bourland a few months ago about his store's future, he thought he'd open at a new location in early 2017. By mid-October, he'd moved up the timeline. His last day at South Main Market is the day before Thanksgiving, with plans to reopen December 1 at Colonial Plaza on South Industrial.

Why the sudden rush? Apparently, the six-story future Residences at 615 S. Main apartment complex started casting its long shadow over South Main Market earlier than expected.

Bourland explains that his landlord, Bill Kinley, came around in early fall to say a construction situation had prompted a need to get current tenants out before December, and incentivized a quicker move. Bourland had been looking at Packard Square, the mixed-use project on the site of the former Georgetown Kroger, but with construction halted there and a tight deadline, he realized he couldn't wait.

Glenn Bourland had been looking at Packard Square, the mixed-use project on the site of the former Georgetown Kroger, but with construction halted there and a tight deadline, he realized he couldn't wait.

"Holiday season is the busiest of the year for us," he explains. In addition to his teas, coffees, and trinkets for gifts, customers need chocolates, nuts, dried fruit, spices, and other supplies: "It's the holidays, and everyone bakes," he says.

With the stressful decision behind him now, Bourland says he's actually "tickled pink" about the new location at 152 South Industrial, Suites C&D, next to Benny's Family Dining. He says new landlord Bob Ufer Jr. has been good to work with. Rent is higher, but the space is larger.

Though parking is plentiful at the new location, some longtime Old West Side residents are sad they'll have to drive instead of walk. Paula Newcomb, who works in the Buhr Building near the S. Main store, is one who'll be making the trip. She a fan of By the Pound teas, "like the naturally sweetened decaf cinnamon, and buying a little of whatever I need, and just chatting."

Bourland says the customers' support "has been flattering, because as a store owner you just don't know.

"It's a shame for downtown, which re-

ally does need small stores," he adds. "The 618 S. Main complex across the street brought new customers, and the Residences at 615 S. Main would have too."

The fate of the other remaining South Main Market tenants remains unsettled. San Fu closed in early October with no new location noted. **Back Alley Gourmet** owner Guerda Harris planned to close on November 30. She's secured a rented commercial kitchen for her holiday catering commitments and says she's working on a permanent new home but has nothing specific yet. Watch her website: backalleygourmetcatering.com

By the Pound, 152 South Industrial (Colonial Plaza), Suites C&D, 665–8884, Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. facebook.com/bythelb

Briefly noted

As of early November, the new Korean-themed Zingerman's venture, **Miss Kim,** was finishing up several months of remodeling in the Kerrytown space that was previously home to Zingerman's Events on Fourth, eve, and the Kerrytown Bistro. Managing partner Ji Hye Kim expected to begin a soft opening process with a limited dinner menu and service hours by the end of November, with a full roll-out a month later. In January, Kim plans to "take a few days off, regroup, and then introduce lunch service."

Managing partner Ji Hye Kim expected to begin a soft opening process with a limited dinner menu and service hours by the end of November, with a full roll-out a month later

Kim, who operated the San Street pan-Asian food cart in Ann Arbor for four years, says she's taking it slow to get it right. "We're doing a phased opening," she says, "because we want to stay flexible and conduct thorough training."

San Street fans will be happy that Kim is planning to include some old favorites, such as the hand-rolled steamed buns. "We want to honor our own history," she says, "but we'll balance this with some of the items from our new restaurant menu, which is more focused on Korean tradition."

Among the new offerings are a pork trotter dish that she describes as "Korean, with Chinese influence"; a spicy rice cake served with pork belly and topped with a poached egg; and her own spin on *dolsot bi bim bab*, a popular dish served in a hot stone bowl with rice, bean sprouts, vegetables, beef, and an egg on top. The bi bim bab in particular will incorporate local, in-season ingredients. "We're using dishes rooted in tradition as a basis but adapting them for what's available here and now in Michigan."

Miss Kim will offer beer, wine, and a full bar. Ji Hye brought in longtime Zingerman's Roadhouse bartender Amos Arinda to be the bar manager. Arinda helped develop many of the house-made syrups and signature cocktails at Zingerman's, and the beverage menu at Miss Kim will feature such classic Korean flavors as sesame syrup and banana milk.

Visitors to Miss Kim will be familiar with the layout, but there are some noticeable differences. "We knocked down some of the non-load-bearing walls to open the space up," says Kim. "Because of our location, and the fact that our biggest window looks onto an alley, we felt we need to bring in more light. We wanted the space to feel clean and fresh." The old rough bricks have been painted white, and Kim added sound-dampening tiles.

The bar and kitchen will remain as they were in the old space, and the dining rooms will feature built-in banquettes around the perimeters. A large cherry wood table that seats twelve will occupy the center of the big dining room, and there will be additional seating at the bar.

Miss Kim will be a no-tip restaurant, and all staff will receive hourly pay and benefits—Kim feels strongly that the gratuity-based system is fundamentally unfair and can be a divisive element between waitstaff and other employees. Speaking of fairness, despite appearances, she did not name the restaurant after herself—she chose "Kim" because it is the single most ubiquitous surname for Koreans, and "Miss," she emails, "because I am proud that this is a woman-owned business … I chose 'Miss' instead of 'Mrs' because it is not in Korean culture to follow your partner's last name. There is no title change from unmarried to married. I've been told by some that 'Miss' sounds a little naughty. I think that's okay."

Miss Kim, 415 N. Fifth Ave. (Kerrytown Shops) Mon.–Thu. 5 p.m.–10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m.–11 p.m. Closed Sun. misskimannarbor.com

❧❧❧

In late October Juliana Jong had set a mid-November opening date for her **Which Wich** franchise in Briarwood. Next to Freshii and a few steps away from California Pizza Kitchen and Chipotle, the new shop joins a mini food court of "fast casual" eateries (industry speak for "slightly slower than fast food, with vegetables"). Jong sweeps her arm around in a 360: "There's a lot of food here, but not sandwiches." Jong thought Which Wich would be a good fit—she says the sandwich market is veering upscale these days, toward "people who don't mind paying a few dollars extra for quality." Which Wich has a gimmick—customers write their own order by checking off boxes on the same brown paper bag the sandwich is served in. If nothing else, it's an ingenious way to save paper.

This is the second Which Wich franchise to open in Ann Arbor—the other opened on Liberty and Fifth last year; Jong says its owner, Alex Zaki, "is a good friend of mine." The nine Which Wiches in

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Marketplace Changes

Michigan were all being groomed to open at roughly the same time, so the franchise owners are a close-knit cohort. Petoskey and Grosse Pointe are some of the other high-income zip codes around the state where Which Wich judged people might shell out for a sandwich that's a cut above Jimmy John's and Subway.

Jong has also owned the Mrs. Fields cookie franchise in the center court of Briarwood since 2001, and she quickly puts in a plug for her cookies, especially Debra's Special (oatmeal, walnuts, and raisins). She also says their custom-decorated "cakes" can be ordered on a few hours' notice. They're really soft pizza-sized cookies.

High-energy Jong seems to know everyone at Briarwood: "Yes, Zales is open, let me take you over to the GM right now. His name is Shawn." Heels snapping, she swiftly brokers an introduction to the sales staff of the newly opened fine jewelry store facing the center court. It turned out to be Shawn St. Andre's day off, so we reached him by phone.

Zales and the nearby Kay (as well as he-went-to-Jared! and about fifteen other brands) are subsidiaries of the giant Signet Jewelers, so there's some overlap in their merchandise, such as this season's heavily advertised "Ever Us" ring. Why did Briarwood even need a Zales (in addition to Kay, there's also Diamond Factory and Gold 'n' Gems to choose from)? St. Andre says,"We're known for more blingy things. We've got a six-carat piece here now with over fifty stones, for $10,000." He adds that you can get it for $8,000. Busy this time of year? "I should bring a cot in here." He'll have a short respite after the holidays before the Valentine's Day traffic ramps up.

The third new business slated to open at Briarwood this season, **Sozo Japanese Grill** down by Tricho Salon (Penney's wing), is on hold. Lisa Wondrash, city of Ann Arbor communications director, explains that the original plans had to be scrapped when an adjacent new tenant decided to remove a bathroom: "The building code requires a bathroom within 300 feet of a business for customers and employees." Sozo and its neighbor have decided to share a bathroom, but revising the plans delayed Sozo's scheduled fall opening.

Which Wich, 852 Briarwood Cir., 707–0307, whichwich.com. Zales, 816 Briarwood Cir., 619–7779. Zales.com. Briarwood mall. Holiday hours: Dec. 9–15, 10 a.m.–10 p.m.; Dec. 16–22, 9 a.m.–10 p.m.; Dec. 23, 8 a.m.–10 p.m.; Dec. 24, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

❧ ❧ ❧

Jackson Rd. in Scio Township will add yet another auto dealership when the new **Suburban Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram** opens early in January. It replaces a building that housed Jungle Java, which was demolished to make way.

The 34,000-square-foot showroom, sales, and service facility is being built on ten acres, which "will allow us to carry the largest selection of FCA [Fiat Chrysler Automotive] products in the county,"

emails Ron MacEachern, general manager at the Suburban Collection. At least initially, however, it will not include any Fiats. In the face of weak sales, last year FCA reversed course and began allowing dealers to fold their Fiat and Alfa Romeo stores into Chrysler Jeep dealerships, but for the moment, Suburban will continue its vest-pocket "Fiat Salon" on W. Stadium. It's reviewing options for the long-time Naylor Chrysler building across Stadium, which for now will continue to house its body shop and auto reconditioning operations.

Headquartered in Troy, Suburban is the largest dealership group in Michigan and sells thirty-two brands of cars and trucks in more than forty locations.

Headquartered in Troy, Suburban is the largest dealership group in Michigan and sells thirty-two brands of cars and trucks in more than forty locations, according to the *Detroit Free Press*. Its other Ann Arbor outlets are the big Chevrolet-Cadillac dealership on Jackson at Wagner, and another selling BMWs, Mercedes-Benz, and Smart cars on Auto Mall Dr. just off Jackson.

Jackson is solidifying its role as the local Dealership Row; in addition to the Suburban stores, shoppers can kick tires at Varsity Ford, Dunning Subaru, Sesi Lincoln, LaFontaine Buick GMC, and Ann Arbor Automotive, all within a few blocks.

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Kathy and Abe Asani's kids are all grown and out of the house now, and she really loves her work. So when she saw a for lease sign on the former Zeeb Rd. Big Boy, she thought "why not?" After twenty-nine years running Abe's Coney Island in Ypsilanti, the Asanis signed the lease, redid the decor with a maize-and-blue theme, and reopened in late October as **Kathy's House of Pancakes.**

"I'm here from 5:30 [a.m.] to 9:30 [p.m.] every day since I've opened," says Kathy, laughing, "I love to work, I don't have any other hobbies!" Many family members—including three adult children, a daughter-in-law, and a brother-in-law—help keep both places running.

The menu features traditional breakfasts like pancakes, crepes, waffles, and eggs, and lunch and dinner fare like salads, sandwiches, and gyros. "We have a little bit of everything," she says, including both vegan and gluten-free options—even gluten-free pancakes.

The first time we visited Kathy's, during a busy Sunday brunch, an unexpected area power outage had just shut down the kitchen. The crowd seemed good-natured about the misfortune, but more than a few faces fell at the prospect of missing out on breakfast.

Kathy's House of Pancakes, 497 N. Zeeb Rd. 882–2538. Daily 6 a.m.–9 p.m.

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"If you can see, feel, sniff, and stretch out on our mattresses, you'll understand the difference between them and any conventional mattress," promises Tim Thompson, owner of **Mattress4U.** "They're made from cruelty-free Ecowool, certified organic cotton, and 100 percent natural rubber latex. Every mattress is renewable and biodegradable."

Mattress4U is the largest certified organic mattress dealer in the Great Lakes region, he says. For several years, it was in a warehouse at 416 W. Huron, with appointment-only hours, but when its lease was up in late summer, Thompson decided to relocate to the small strip mall on Carpenter Rd. just north of Packard.

"Our customers are as unique as our mattresses," Thompson says. "Some have allergies, some are committed to environment-friendly products, some enjoy being at the forefront of new products."

Thompson has sold mattresses since 1982, when he and other MSU friends sold waterbeds to college students. In 1989, he moved on to a family furniture store in Port Huron. But the market for waterbeds drained away. "I realized we needed to diversify or die. Memory-foam beds came out and quickly improved in quality. But I was concerned about the fact that they were loaded with synthetics, chemicals, toxins, and fire retardants." So he began researching organic alternatives. Though the storefront is small, Mattress4U stocks fourteen mattresses, from twin to king and from soft to firm. Organic mattresses are manufactured from pure cotton, wool, and rubber. They start at $1,200. The store also sells organic pillows and bedding.

Thompson says his biggest competitors are online. "When someone buys a mattress over the Internet, they have no clue about what they're buying," he contends, "whereas our mattresses are completely pure and completely American made." Thompson's family owns a second, more conventional mattress store in Greenville. He says the Ann Arbor store attracts customers from "Birmingham, Toledo, Columbus, Fort Wayne, Traverse City, and even Chicago."

Thompson's sons handle deliveries—all of which are free, no matter how far away. When the deliveries take them to interesting locations, the Thompsons often make them into family trips.

Mattress4U, 2919 Carpenter Rd., 254–9993. Mon. noon–7 p.m., Thurs. 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Tues. & Wed. by appointment. thematttress4u.com.

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Northland Investments, which owns a portfolio of different restaurants around the Midwest—"13 fast casual, 49 quick serve and 4 casual dining," says its press release—opened its second **Blaze Pizza** in town, in Cranbrook Village next to Potbelly (last summer it opened one on Washtenaw). Blaze cooks its customizable

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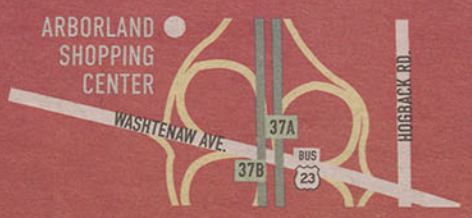

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Marketplace Changes

eleven-inch thin-crust pizzas in the oven for two very hot minutes. They can be washed down with *aguas frescas* in flavors like prickly pear and key lime mint (or old-school carbonated soft drinks). Blaze pizzas can be ordered to go but are best eaten fresh from the oven, and this store can seat over a hundred.

Blaze Pizza, 980A W. Eisenhower Pkwy. (Cranbrook Village), 773–3198. Sun.–Thurs. 10:30 a.m.–11 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10:30 a.m.–midnight. blazepizza.com

In the Works

After standing empty more than a year, the ramshackle building a block down from Ashley Mews that had housed Carter's Auto Service is showing signs of life. In October the outside walls had been painted, and most of the equipment inside was gone—though the car lifts remained.

Mechanic John Carter says his landlord on Ashley St. "told us three years ago he was going to turn [the auto repair shop] into a brewpub, and I didn't believe him."

After nineteen years in the location without a lease, John Carter says he was given "maybe a month" to move his tools and customers out. He went to Auto Tech on Aprill Dr. back in October 2015 but remains incredulous about his former landlord's intentions.

"He told us three years ago he was going to turn it into a brewpub, and I didn't believe him," laughs Carter. "He says he's going to back a concessions truck in and just have the beer handle coming outside. I don't know how that's going to work in the winter!"

"That building is a turd," he snorts. "The walls leak when it rains. It's got no foundation." (It's built on a concrete slab.) Carter contends the landlord has few options because "there's an old map and you can see there's a river that's been covered over down there."

Jerry Hancock, the city's storm water and floodplain programs coordinator, identifies the river as Allen Creek—and says the building is smack dab in its floodplain.

"Someone has come and talked with me two or three times about a brewpub," Hancock reports. "He said we're going to clean it up and have a bar and brewing equipment. I told him if the project's cost exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure, they will have to flood-proof the building, which means put vents in that allow floodwater to enter and exit."

Repeated phone calls failed to connect with landlord Joel Flowers, but we bumped into him one afternoon working inside the building with his son. Flowers said he hoped to open in thirty to ninety days and that he'd call the next morning to discuss his plans.

He never did, but the building was clearly cleaner two days later—though still a long way from being a brew pub.

Closings

Two restaurant tragedies hit Ann Arbor this fall.

The restaurant **eve** opened in the Bell Tower last year after several years' hiatus, but in September, before Eve Aronoff Fernandez could celebrate the first anniversary of the rebooting of her beloved high-end restaurant, plumbing problems shut it down. At the time, eve's Facebook page and website breezily promised a speedy reopening as soon as the old building's pipes were fixed. In late October, Aronoff Fernandez announced she would not reopen there after all. "Unfortunately," she explained further in an email, "I can't say too much … [T]he situation from the flood/water damage got more complicated than we ever could have imagined and … we are actively looking for a new space. We had to get attorneys involved, which is not fun." Her attorney, Paul Bohn, was hopeful the situation would be resolved out of court.

Aronoff Fernandez still has her other restaurant, Frita Batidos, and she emails that she'll likely start doing private catering and "chef-driven dinners" and perhaps "a pretty awesome eve Pop-up restaurant for the month of February."

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Back2Roots Bistro succumbed to a pile-up of human tragedies. Several years ago, Swaroop Bhojani gave up a well-paying U-M job as an oncology research scientist to pursue his real love: reinventing Indian food in light, piquant vegetarian and vegan versions. He opened Hut-K Chaats in 2011 to immediate success. Last year he took on business partner Pradeep Chowdhry ("PC") to open Back2Roots, a white-tablecloth vegan iteration of his cuisine, on Main St. In July, Chowdhry died of cancer. And in India, Bhojani's sister, weakened by lung cancer, died of dengue fever, a tragedy with rippling effects, because she had been caretaker to his aged parents. Closing Back2Roots will allow him to make more frequent trips to India. (Another horrific factor in his decision to close Back2Roots was the fatal stabbing of his employee Kenneth Abernathy in August in Ypsilanti.)

In early November, he was negotiating with a possible tenant for the Back2Roots space. If they come to an agreement, it will soon be an Indian restaurant, and Bhojani will be developing a healthy, vegetarian portion of its menu. "Cooking is my passion," he says. "Business is not my passion." Hut-K is still busy, though Bhojani sheepishly admits that he needs to shut up and work more—when he's supposed to be behind the counter taking orders, he often wanders off to distribute samples of his latest herbal smoothie or explain the biochemistry of sprouted grain. ■

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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.*

Ann Arbor Distilling Co.

220 Felch **882–2169**

A performance space adjacent to the bar in this boutique distillery features occasional live music. Occasional cover, dancing. **Dec 4: May Erlewine.** Ensemble led by this big-voiced singer-songwriter from Big Rapids who writes thoughtful, richly emotional country-flavored songs. Tonight she celebrates the release of the 6-song EP *The Little Things*. $21 in advance at earthworkmusic.com/events-ind?i=1552 and at the door. 7:30–10 p.m. **Dec. 31: Rootstand.** Veteran local band whose music blends bluegrass, blues, reggae, and Celtic folk idioms and instrumentation. Opening acts are **Sweet Melissa,** a high-energy local dance quintet fronted by Georgia-bred vocalist Melissa Bruzzano whose music blends rock, funk, urban, Americana, and other genres, and **Ross Huff & Brennan Andes,** an ensemble led by these 2 members of the Macpodz—trumpeter Huff and bassist Andes—that plays jazz-based originals and covers of an eclectic array of American music classics. $10 in advance at facebook.com/AnnArborDistillingCompany. 8 p.m.–2 a.m.

The Ark

316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon.–Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and theark.org, and at the door. **Dec. 1: Jen Cass & the Lucky Nows.** Bluesy Americana roots-rock by an ensemble led by veteran Detroit singer-songwriter Jen Cass. $15. **Dec. 2: Enter the Haggis.** Popular Toronto quintet whose music is a rousing, raucous blend of Scottish and Canadian Celtic music with rock, bluegrass, Caribbean, and world music. Instrumentation includes fiddle, bagpipes, tin whistle, guitars, keyboards, and drums. The band has a new CD in celebration of its 20th anniversary. $20. **Dec. 3: Jeffrey Foucault.** Wisconsin-based American roots-music singer-songwriter known for wry, deftly poetic lyrics and rich-toned fingerstyle guitar accompaniment. His work has won praise from the likes of Greg Brown and Chris Smither, and *No Depression* calls him "the bard of small-town anywhere." $20. **Dec. 4: Carrie Newcomer.** Acclaimed singer-songwriter and dynamic performer from northern Indiana whose songs explore the nourishments of the spirit in everyday life with a gritty realism and soft-spoken charm. A stylish singer with a dark, smoky alto, she uses a honky-tonk drawl and a bluesy purr to give her songs a seasoned toughness and a seductive sensuality that's tempered by her Quaker roots. *No Depression* calls the music on her 2013 CD *Before & After* "delicate yet strong, with a voice rich with warmth and deep with soul." $20. **Dec. 8–10: "Ebird & Friends Holiday Show."** Erin Zindle, the fiery fiddling frontwoman of the classy local progressive country-rock band the Ragbirds who has also released a solo CD, *Scenes from the Fragile, Agile Avian World,* is joined by several established and up-and-coming luminaries of the Michigan music scene for her very popular annual program of new and old holiday music. Participants include bluegrass singer-songwriter **Lindsay Lou** of the Flatbellys, the soulful Americana folk-rock singer-songwriter duo **Emilee Petersmark and Kate Pillsbury** of the Crane Wives, local folk-rock singer-songwriter **Chris DuPont,** nationally renowned Saline-bred multi-instrumental string virtuoso **Brad Phillips,** beloved Chelsea-bred rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter **Frank Allison,** Grand Rapids hip-hop MC **Rick Chyme,** Lansing singer-songwriter and guitarist **Jen Sygit,** folk-rock vocalist **Jessica McCumons** of the Understorey, trumpeter **Ross Huff** and bassist **Brennan Andes** of the MacPodz, violinist & mandolinist **Brandon Smith** of the Appleseed Collective, percussionist Loren Kranz of the folk-rock Barbarossa Brothers, trombonist **Bethanni Greczynski** of the Balkan brass band Rhyta Musik, jazz saxophonist **Tim Haldeman,** cellist **Christina Furtado,** singer-songwriter **Chris Good,** veteran local country-rock singer-guitarist **Mike Boyd,** percussionist **Dan Piccolo,** and improv comic **Shelly Smith. Dec. 11: Delbert McClinton.** Legendary Texas honky-tonk singer-songwriter whose music effortlessly melds country, blues, rock 'n' roll, and R&B traditions. A superb blues harpist, McClinton got his start as a teenager in the 50s backing blues masters like Howlin' Wolf and Jimmy Reed in San Antonio bars. Though his own records have typically enjoyed only a cult following, the likes of Emmylou Harris and Vince Gill have turned songs of his into hits, and he has recorded hit duets with Bonnie Raitt, Tanya Tucker, and others. McClinton's gotten even better with age: his recent recordings evince a relaxed mastery without losing the gritty swagger and drive that's always distinguished his music, and his 2009 CD *Acquired Taste* topped the *Billboard* blues chart. He has a new CD, as well. $50. **Dec. 17: Blackthorn.** This veteran Royal Oak quartet plays a wide range of Celtic music, from contemporary Irish songs and traditional songs of emigration to sea shanties, lively jigs and reels, and haunting ancient airs. $20. *Note:* The Ark is closed after tonight's show for renovations, reopening on Jan. 3.

Aut Bar

315 Braun Ct. **994–3677**

This local tavern features live music Tues., 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Jesse Kramer Trio.** Jazz trio led by drummer Kramer.

The B-Side

310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 10: "Our World Our Mike."** Open mike for local youth musicians and spoken word artists.

Babs' Underground

213 S. Ashley **997–0800**

This downtown lounge features live music Wed., 11 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Dave Menzo.** This local singer-songwriter uses guitar, bass, synths, and other electronics to improvise instrumental tracks on the spot to sing with. His new CD, *Shhh,* is a collection of cinematic soundscapes created entirely with acoustic, electric, and electronic instruments from the Ann Arbor District Library Music Tools collection.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local club features live music most Wed.–Sat. and occasional other nights, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the 8 Ball Saloon (below the club) and at etix.com. **Dec. 1: Queens of Cups.** Local burlesque variety troupe featuring Gala Delicious, Honey La Fae, Bethany Cinna Moan, Kitt Y. Bourree, Sadie Sparkles, and Bunny Valentine. With live band Krillin. **Dec. 2: Sweater Beats.** Brooklyn hip-hop–based electronic dance ensemble. Opening act is **Different Sleep,** a Chicago post-dubstep electronic dance music ensemble. Advance tickets: $12 ($15 at the door). **Dec. 3: Isaac Castor.** Local hip-hop MC. Opening acts are local hip-hop MCs **Jashua Smith, Obie Iyoha, Munch,** and **King Milo. Dec. 7:** TBA. **Dec. 8:** TBA. **Dec. 9: Jacob Sigman.** Toledo folk-rock singer-songwriter. Opening acts are the local indie rock duo **The Stellars,** the Cincinnati neo-psychedelic dance-rock trio **Fluffer,** and the local edgily melodic guitar-based rock quartet **My Girlfriend Beru. Dec. 10:** TBA. **Dec. 14: Dopapod.** Highly regarded Boston-bred experimental funk-rock quartet. Opening act is **Pigeons Playing Ping Pong,** a psychedelic funk quintet from Baltimore. Advance tickets: $15 ($18 at the door). **Dec. 15:** TBA. **Dec. 16: Kool Keith.** This prolific Bronx MC is a hip-hop underground legend. He has a brand-new CD, *Feature Magnetic,* a collection featuring spare beats, simple hooks, and razor-sharp verses that effortlessly switch moods, cadences, and points. Opening act is **Kosha Dillz,** a veteran New Jersey–bred MC who raps alternately and sometimes simultaneously in Hebrew, Spanish, and English. Advance tickets: $15. Remainder of December schedule TBA.

The Blue Nile

221 E. Washington **998–4746**

This downtown restaurant features live music, Fri. & Sat. 6–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Louis Johnson.** Jazz standards and New Ethiopian jazz by this local pianist and saxophonist. On Saturdays he is joined by bassist Will Austin and other friends TBA.

Bona Sera

200 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **340–6335**

This Ypsilanti restaurant features occasional live music in its underground lounge, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, cover. **Dec. 29–31: "Mittenfest X."** Three-night showcase of local and Michigan bands in a wide spectrum of genres. 6 different bands each night. A benefit for the nonprofit youth tutoring and writing center 826michigan. $10 per night. 8 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.).

Café Verde

214 N. Fourth Ave. **994–9174**

This café in the People's Food Co-op features acoustic musicians and duos, Thurs. 6–8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. December schedule TBA.

The Cavern Club

210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This downtown basement club in the Celebration Cellars banquet space features occasional live music, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. There is also sometimes music in the street-level Millennium Club and Gotham City and the 2nd-floor Circus Bar & Billiards. Also, karaoke in the Circus, Wed.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Occasional cover, dancing. **Dec. 3 & 10: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular veteran band from Dearborn. In the Millennium Club. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Bash."** With DJs in in the Millennium Club, DJs in the Cavern Club and Gotham City. 8 p.m.–4 a.m.

klezmer

Klezmephonic

Musical diversity

Klezmephonic, Ann Arbor's premier klezmer band, will play during KindleFest at Kerrytown December 2. The music that for centuries was the soundtrack of the celebrations of Eastern European Jews will resound at an American version of a traditional German pre-Christmas festival, held in the Irish-named shopping district of our Midwestern city. Perfect, right? Completely fitting, in fact, because European klezmer music grew out of and encompassed a great variety of regional liturgical, folk, and ethnic styles of music. Further, what we now recognize as klezmer is what resulted when music that Eastern European immigrants brought to the U.S. in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries interbred with American ragtime, pop, Broadway, and jazz.

Because klezmer music embodies such diverse styles, it demands great breadth and depth of training and experience. In that respect, the founding members of Klezmephonic—violinist Henrik Karapetyan, clarinetist and accordionist Will Cicola, and bassist Dave Sharp—are prototypical klezmer musicians. Between them they have many years of familiarity with classical, gypsy, folk, jazz, and many of the other musical threads that merge into klezmer. They also have the flash and virtuosity that is the hallmark of any really good klezmer band.

Karapetyan produces a gorgeous classical tone but is also at home with all the ear-popping, jaw-dropping tricks and techniques of Gypsy masters; his violin sings the haunting, melancholy melodies of the *doinas* (folk songs of the Romanian peasants) and races thrillingly through rapid-fire Bulgar dances. On the traditional Yiddish tune "Tumbalalaika" his tremolo pizzicato effectively transforms his violin into a Russian balalaika. Clarinetist Cicola combines equally impeccable mastery of his instrument and a similar comfort with the unique ornamentations that distinguish the klezmer sound—trills, note bends, and *krekhts* (which make the clarinet sound like it's laughing). The two use the similar yet distinct sonorities of their instruments to blend seamlessly whether they play in unison or in harmony, or when they swirl around each other's notes like improvising Dixieland players. Bassist Sharp, with his strong jazz and world music credentials, provides the harmonic underpinning and makes the rhythms swing and sway with a driving yet non-metronomic flexibility so essential to this music.

Klezmephonic is more than adept on renditions of traditional Yiddish melodies and on the tunes of early American klezmer masters Dave Tarras and Naftule Brandwein. But they also reach into the repertoire of swing with pieces like "Utt Da Zay," originally recorded by Cab Calloway, and works by contemporary klezmer composers, such as Adrianne Greenbaum's beautiful waltz, "Dobriden."

Carolyn Koebel on hand percussion and Drew Howard on guitar join the core trio at KindleFest. Klezmephonic is also at the Old Town December 28.

—Sandor Slomovits

Chelsea Alehouse Brewery
420 N. Main, suite 100
Chelsea **475–2337**

This brewpub features live music Sun. 2–4 p.m. & 6–8 p.m., Wed. 8–10 p.m., and Fri. 9–11 p.m. $5 suggested donation, no dancing. All ages admitted. **1st & 3rd Sun.: Celtic Jam Session.** All musicians invited to join a biweekly jam session. 2–4 p.m. **Every 2nd Sun.: "Songwriters Circle."** All invited to drop in to play their work or just listen. Hosted by veteran singer-songwriter Annie Capps. 2–5 p.m. **Every Sun.: The Wes Fritzemeier Jazz Experience.** With the Chelsea ensemble of pianist Brian Brill, bassist Jed Fritzemeier, and drummer Wes Fritzemeier. 6–8 p.m. **Every 2nd Tues.: Open Mike.** All musicians and other performers invited. 8 p.m. **Every Wed.: Thunderwüde.** Bluegrass and related roots music by the Chelsea trio of guitarists Jason Dennie and George Merkel and multi-instrumentalist Wes Fritzemeier. **Dec. 2: Creole du Nord.** Manchester-based Cajun & Creole quintet. **Dec. 3: Annie & Rod Capps.** Annie Capps is a local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes thoughtful, distinctively personal, warmly exuberant folk-rock songs and ballads that are both musically sophisticated and down-home. She's accompanied by her husband, singer-guitarist Rod Capps. **Dec. 9:** TBA. **Dec. 16: Wire in the Wood.** Local acoustic string quartet led by singer-songwriter Billy Kirst that describes its music as "prog-bluegrass locomotive pulling a lonesome alt-folk boxcar and a swinging Hot-Club caboose." With mandolinist Kyle Rhodes, fiddler Jordan Adema, and bassist Ryan Shea. **Dec. 23 & 30:** TBA. **Dec. 31: The Ben Daniels Band.** Artful, dynamic country-inflected rock 'n' roll by this Chelsea quintet led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Daniels, whose influences range from Robert Johnson to Dylan to Jack White. 8 p.m.–1 a.m.

The Club Above
215 N. Main **686–4012**

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music Tues., Fri., Sat., and occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors at 9 p.m.). Also, DJs occasional Wed. & Thurs. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, cover. Age 21 & older admitted (except as noted). **Every Tues.: "College Night."** DJs play Top 40 & electronic dance music records. **Dec. 2:** Private party. **Dec. 3: "Techno & House Dance Party."** All-vinyl dance party with DJ Pat in the Hat. **Dec. 8: "90s Dance Party."** DJs play 90s dance hits. **Dec. 9: Human Skull.** Opening acts are **Saatjak,** a local progressive metal band fronted by local singer-songwriter Alex Koi, and **Vale,** a Chicago postpunk experimental rock band. **Dec. 10: Jive Colossus.** Local 9-piece ensemble with a killer horn section fronted by vocalist Shelly Catalan that plays Afro-Caribbean, funk, rock, and blues dance music. **Dec. 16: Forest Green.** Bay City alternative punk-rock band. Opening acts are the South Lyon post-grunge rock trio **Welman,** the Detroit-area noise rock punk band **Complainer,** the Detroit post-hardcore trio **Adventurer,** and the Livingston County postpunk instrumental surf band **Texas Beachball Massacre. Dec. 17: "Dancehall & Reggae Night."** With Ann Arbor Reggae DJs. **Dec. 18: "Bassover-Takeover."** Bass-heavy dance music with guest DJs TBA. **Dec. 30: "8-Bit Above."** Electronic musicians TBA create so-called "chiptune" dance music using antique video games hardware, along with other forms of avant-garde dance music. **Dec. 31: Stormy Chromer.** Local progressive jam-rock quintet. Opening acts are the local jazz-inflected progressive funk-rock quartet **Chirp,** local electronic dance musicians **Tetra,** the Ypsilanti jangly blues-rock quartet **Cig Butts,** and the electronic dance music **Bass WHLF Collective.**

Common Cup
1511 Washtenaw **327–6914**

This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment on occasional Fri. No cover (except as noted), no dancing. December music schedule TBA.

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30–10 p.m. and Thurs.–Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: Shaun Garth Walker.** Local singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Dec. 1: Adam Labeaux.** An eclectic mix of jazz, folk, soul, funk, and rock originals by this local singer-songwriter, a former Ragbirds guitarist. **Dec. 3:** No music. **Dec. 8: Bob Skon.** Folk-rock covers and originals by this local singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Dec. 10: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See Mash. **Dec. 15: Reeds 'n' Steel.** Acoustic jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by the duo of singer and harmonica player Michael May and guitarist David Roof. **Dec. 17: Damien McCarthy.** Traditional Irish music by this singer-guitarist from Ireland. **Dec. 22: Y Town Hollies.** Energetic local Irish music band. **Dec. 24:** Closed. **Dec. 29: Painted White.** Detroit acoustic duo of singer Holly Schiavulli and guitarist Garret Schmittling whose repertoire includes classic funk, pop dance hits, classic and modern rock, and even a few country songs. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Party."** With DJs.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main **665–9468**

Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8:30–10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 2: Mark Jewett.** Detroit-area Americana pop-rock singer-songwriter whose latest CD is *Love Has No Heart of Its Own*. **Dec. 3: Dan Hazlett.** Detroit-area singer-songwriter and guitarist who plays an eclectic mix of blues-, R&B-, folk-, and jazz-influenced originals on topics that range from the outlandish to the sublime. **Dec. 9: Adam Plomaritas.** Local Americana rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. **Dec. 10: Bill Edwards.** Veteran local country singer-songwriter whose songs have been covered by the likes of Lee Roy Parnell and T. Graham Brown. His collaboration with former Ann Arborite Whit Hill, "What'd I Do," was featured in the HBO series *True Blood*. **Dec. 16: Robin Monterosso.** Twangy Americana with blues and soul flavors by this metro Detroit singer-songwriter who in 2014 at age 47 released her first CD, *What I Didn't Say*. **Dec. 17: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Dec. 23 & 24:** No music. **Dec. 30: Blue Water Ramblers.** The Grand Rapids duo of banjoist Jim Foerch and guitarist Bear Berends perform a wide range of traditional Great Lakes music, including lake shanties, lumberman ballads, union rallying cries, farmers' paeans, gospel music, and children's ditties. **Dec. 31:** No music.

Crossroads
517 W. Cross, Ypsilanti **340–5597**

This bar & grill near EMU features live music Tues., Fri., & Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke Thurs. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Tues.: "Showcase Tuesday."** With up-and-coming local bands TBA. **Every Fri. & Sat.:** Live bands TBA.

Dreamland Theater
26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti **657–2337**

This downtown Ypsilanti theater features occasional live music. Cover (usually a donation), dancing. December schedule TBA.

The Earle
121 W. Washington **994–0211**

Restaurant with live jazz Tues.–Thurs. 7–9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Keaton Royer.** Solo jazz pianist. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble, named after the late jazz pianist and Earle cofounder Burgess, featuring pianist Gil Scott Chapman, bassist Russell Tessier, and drummer Robert Warren.

The Elks Lodge
220 Sunset **761–7172**

This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features soul food and live jazz, blues, & rock Fri. & Sat. 6–10 p.m. Also, DJs, Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, usually no cover except for DJ shows. Members and guests welcome. **Dec. 15: Hip-Hop Open Mike.** All hip-hop artists invited.

Guy Hollerin's
3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. (except holiday weekends), 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 3: Bruce Katz Band.** Funky, greasy, blues-drenched, New Orleans–inspired R&B by a band led by this Hammond B-3 organist from Boston who teaches a course on the blues at the prestigious Berklee School of Music. "No one would mistake Katz's blues for jazz, but there are elements of jazz to be found on [his 2003 CD] *Mississippi Moan,* in that it occasionally features long solos and sophisticated harmonics not traditionally found on blues albums," says *Bluesreviews* critic Don Fluckinger. Tonight he celebrates the release of a brand-new CD, *Out from The Center.* **Dec. 10: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. The band's latest CD is *Big Sexee.* **Dec. 17: Laura Rain & the Caesars.** See Mash. **Dec. 24:** No music. **Dec. 31: Al Hill & the Love Butlers.** Revamped version of this veteran local band, led by Nashville-based Ann Arbor native Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano, that plays various forms of roots rock and soul music. $29 (includes champagne toast and light hors d'oeuvres buffet at midnight) in advance and (if available) at the door. 8 p.m.–1 a.m.

The Habitat Lounge
3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs. 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m., along with jazz Sun. 8:30–10 p.m. Also, a DJ Mon., 7 p.m.–midnight, and solo pianists Tues.–Sun., 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: The Weber's Jazz Collective.** Jazz originals and standards by different piano-based trios and quartets each show. **Every Tues.: Dave Menzo.** Local pop-rock singer-songwriter who recently released the CD *Color Wheel*. **Dec. 1: Wych Elm.** Local string sextet that plays a stylishly pungent, soul-infused mix of folk, rock, jazz, and old-time music. **Dec. 2 & 3: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **Dec. 7 & 8: Slice.** Veteran East Lansing pop dance quartet. **Dec. 9 & 10: FreeLance.** Local dance rock cover band whose repertoire ranges from Earth, Wind & Fire and Stevie Wonder to AC/DC and Guns & Roses to Maroon 5 and Bruno Mars. **Dec. 14: Cetan Clawson.** Monroe psychedelic blues-rock trio. **Dec. 15: Wych Elm.** See above. **Dec. 16 & 17: The Front Men.** Energetic Detroit rock quartet. **Dec. 21 & 22: Slice.** See above. **Dec. 23: Soulstice.** See above. **Dec. 28: Cetan Clawson.** See above. **Dec. 29: Wych Elm.** See above. **Dec. 30 & 31: The Front Men.** See above.

LIVE
102 S. First St. **623–1443**

This lounge features live music Fri. happy hour (late Aug.–May), 6:30–9 p.m., and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Dec. 2: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Yardbirds, the Byrds, and Dylan to priceless obscurities like Love's "Alone Again Or" and the Foundations' 1968 hit "Build Me Up Buttercup." 6:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 9: Ransom Jones.** Veteran local classic rock party band, formerly known as the Breakers, that plays 60s–80s covers. 6:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 16: "Velvet Underground Tribute."** With an ad hoc ensemble led by local jazz bassist Dave Sharp. 6:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 23: She-Bop & the Riff Raff.** Local septet with a repertoire of vintage and contemporary pop, rock, and blues covers that's fronted by the girl-group–style vocals of Robin Peterson, Laurie Lounsbury, and Jennifer Carr Rumberger. 6:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 30 & 31: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everyone from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. With guitarist Tyler Stipe, bassist Pat Prouty, drummer Mark Newbound, and key-

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boardist Jim King. The Saturday show is the annual "Geezer's New Year's Party." 6:30–9 p.m.

Mash
211 E. Washington **222–4095**

This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Wed. 9 p.m.–midnight and Thurs.–Sat. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Weekend happy hour music, 6–9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 1: Laura Rain & the Caesars.** An intense fusion of funk, soul, and blues by this Detroit quintet fronted by vocalist Rain. **Dec. 2: Robert Johnson.** Solo acoustic folk and blues by this Northville singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 2: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. **Dec. 3: Matt Boylan.** Covers and originals by this local pop-folk singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 3: Gut Bucket.** Blues and blues-rock band led by Kalamazoo singer-guitarist Dave Kellan. **Dec. 7: The Laura Rain Duo.** Duo led by this Detroit blues and soul singer. **Dec. 8: Brett Mitchell & the Giant Ghost.** Midland pop-rock band led by Mitchell, a singer-songwriter and drummer whom *Grand Rapids Press* music critic John Sinkevics calls "the new millennium's version of Marshall Crenshaw." **Dec. 9: Mike Vial.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 9: Sonic Freeway.** Versatile Detroit-area 6-piece dance band whose repertoire includes Motown and classic and country-rock. **Dec. 10: Dan Orcutt.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 10: Chris Canas Band.** Detroit blues band fronted by blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas. **Dec. 14: Adam Labeaux.** See Conor O'Neill's. **Dec. 15: Barelyon.** Soulful pop-rock by this Detroit duo. **Dec. 16: Jibs Brown.** Ypsilanti blues singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 16: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 17: Zander Michigan.** The stage name of Detroit pop-folk singer-songwriter Zander Melidis. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 17: Rock Jones.** Detroit roots rock, classic country, and blues quintet. **Dec. 21: Reeds & Steel.** Acoustic jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by the duo of singer and harmonica player Michael May and guitarist David Roof. **Dec. 22: Nobody's Business.** Redford blues and blues-rock band. **Dec. 23: Jay Fry.** Local singer-guitarist who plays rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk covers and originals. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 23: Rumblefish.** Local reggae-funk trio. **Dec. 28: Barelyon.** See above. **Dec. 29: The Invasion.** British Invasion cover quartet from Redford led by singer-guitarist David Roof. **Dec. 30: Reeds & Steel.** See above. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 30: Brett Mitchell & the Giant Ghost.** See above. **Dec. 31: Chris Canas Band.** See above.

The Necto
516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, Friday happy hour bands (no cover) in the Red Room, 6–8:30 p.m., and occasional other live shows. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 2: 7th Annual Rockin' Christmas Party.** With the **Soul Practitioners,** an ensemble of local attorneys that plays Motown and R&B classics. Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. Free admission with donation of new, unwrapped children's toys for Toys for Tots and Community Action Network, protein-rich food items for Food Gatherers, or something for pets for the Humane Society. 5:30–8:30 p.m. **Dec. 9: Shoot the Messenger,** a versatile honky-tonk band led by singer-bassist Chris Goerke. The band's huge repertoire includes blues, country, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and R&B. With singer-guitarist Steve Newhouse and singer-drummer Tom Twiss. 6–8:30 p.m. **Dec. 16:** No music. **Dec. 23: The Switchbacks.** Local hard-rocking country and blues quintet fronted by vocalist Janet Benson. 6–8:30 p.m. **Dec. 30: Hullabaloo.** Veteran local 9-piece collective whose upbeat, energetic music draws on ska, jazz, funk, punk, and Latin influences. 6–8:30 p.m.

Old Town
122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun., Wed., & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 4: Whiskey Charmers.** Classy Detroit neo-honky-tonk duo featuring singer-guitarists Carrie Shepard and Lawrence Daversa, who bill their music as "electric heartbreak on the rocks." **Dec. 7: Jesse Kramer Trio.** Jazz trio led by drummer Kramer. **Dec. 11: Misty Lyn & the Big Beautiful.** Local country-inflected folk-rock quintet led by singer-songwriter Misty Lyn. The band has an acclaimed 2013 CD, *False Honey,* a collection of songs exploring heartache and its aftermath. Opening act is **Matt Jones,** a popular local pop-folk singer-songwriter whose latest CD, *Half Poison, Half Pure,* is a collection of well-crafted, emotionally penetrating songs about dark times. **Dec. 14: Andrew Bishop Trio.** Jazz compositions and improvisations by an ensemble led by veteran local reeds player Bishop, a U-M music professor. **Dec. 18: John Latini.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this popular veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. He has a brand-new CD, *The Blues Just Makes Me Feel Good.* **Dec. 21: RJ Spangler Trio.** A mix of classic jazz and blues by this Detroit trio led by drummer Spangler. **Dec. 28: Klezmephonic.** *See review, p. 76.* Local klezmer quintet. With clarinetist Jennie Lavine, accordionist Will Cicola, violinist Henrik Karapetyan, guitarist Alex Belhaj, and bassist Dave Sharp.

Oz's Music Environment
1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music 1st & 4th Tues. and every Thurs. 7:30–9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Guitarist Network."** All guitarists invited for a weekly jam session and group lesson that concludes with a group performance. 7:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 6: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Dec. 20: "Ukulele Jam."** Musicians of all ability levels invited.

The Ravens Club
207 S. Main **214–0400**

This downtown bar & grill features live music, Sun. 8–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Heather Black Project.** Vintage jazz and blues by an ensemble led by Heather Schwartz, a talented local singer whose vocal style also reflects gospel, R&B, soul, and hip-hop influences.

Rush Street
314 S. Main **913–0330**

This martini lounge features nightly DJs, along with live music, Thurs. 7–10 p.m., Fri. 8–10 p.m., and occasional other nights. Dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.: Los Gatos.** Popular local Latin jazz quintet led by drummer Pete Siers that specializes in the old-school music of Cal Tjader, Mongo Santamaria, Tito Puente, and Joe Cuba. The band has amassed a large following among both jazz aficionados and salsa dancers. **Every Fri.** (except Dec. 16)**: Legendary Wings.** Local jazz quintet that focuses on dynamic, challenging, and less commonly heard music from the modern jazz repertoire interspersed with free improvisation. The usual lineup features saxophonists Dan Bennett and Tim Haldeman, Fender Rhodes electric pianist Matt Endahl, bassist Jordan Schug, and drummer Nick Collins. **Dec. 2: WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series.** With **Ron Brooks & Friends,** a bebop-rooted mainstream jazz ensemble led by veteran local bassist Brooks. 5–8 p.m. **Dec. 16: Andy Adamson Quartet,** an ensemble led by composer-keyboardist Adamson whose music ranges from traditional to modern electric jazz, along with some free improvisation. With saxophonist Dan Bennett, acoustic and electric bassist Brennan Andes, and drummer John Taylor.

The Session Room
3685 Jackson **585–7300**

This new westside tavern features occasional live music, mostly weeknights, 8–11 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 1: J. Magee & the Crossed Lines.** Local bluegrass-oriented folk-rock ensemble led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Magee. **Dec. 7: The Rhythm & Blues Corps.** Detroit R&B quartet led by veteran Detroit jazz & blues vocalist Marsha Gayle. **Dec. 14: Dede Alder.** Self-styled "ethereal gypsy music" by this Traverse City singer-songwriter and vibes players who fronts Dede & the Dreamers. **Dec. 20: Applebee's Detectives.** An ensemble of members of the popular local acoustic Appleseed Collective folk-rock band. **Dec. 21: Estar Cohen Project.** Local modern jazz ensemble led by vocalist Cohen. **Dec. 22: Ahmid Alexander Trio.** Local jazz ensemble led by saxophonist Alexander. **Dec. 23: Aidan Cafferty & Los Renaissance Men.** Local jazz ensemble led by bassist Cafferty.

Silvio's Organic Pizza
715 North University **214–6666**

This campus-area restaurant features live music Sun. 6–8 p.m., Fri. 7–9 p.m., and occasional other nights. Also, dancing to DJs with swing music (Wed. 10 p.m.–midnight) and tango music (Fri. 10 p.m.–midnight). No cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Will Mefford.** Improvisations on jazz standards by this local pianist. **Dec. 2: Dorkestra Trio.** A downsized version of this local blues-flavored folk-rock swing quintet whose music also blends jazz, African, Middle Eastern, funk, and pop influences. **Dec. 9: Isosceles.** Versatile local acoustic trio that plays a mix of jazz, swing, country, pop, and folk. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, bassist Tim Berla, and guitarist Jim Cooney. The band has a recent CD, *Triangle.* **Dec. 16: Liz Royce.** Rock, folk, blues, and country classics by this local torch singer and pianist. **Dec. 23: Tim Prosser.** A mix of folk and pop covers and originals by this local singer-mandolinist, who is joined by guest musicians TBA. **Dec. 30:** TBA.

Tap Room
201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **482–5320**

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music Thurs. 8 p.m.–midnight, and occasional Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Dec. 2: "First Friday."** With the Ypsilanti ska-punk band **Dirty Notion,** the local progressive psychedelic-postrock quartet **Dirty Deville,** and **Payback the Thief,** the Detroit postpunk roots-rock trio fronted by singer-guitarists Jeni Lee Richey and Mike Shellabarger. **Dec. 3 & 31: "Boylesque."** Drag show. 10 p.m.–2 a.m.

Wolverine State Brewing Co.
2019 W. Stadium **369–2990**

This west-side brewpub features occasional live music, 8:30–11:30 p.m. No cover, dancing. December music schedule TBA.

The Yellow Barn
416 W. Huron **635–8450**

This performance venue just west of downtown features live music Wed., most Fri. & Sat., & occasional other nights, 7:30–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 14: Adrian + Meredith.** Nashville-based, Michigan-bred husband-and-wife Americana duo whose music blends an old-timey twang and the frenetic bounce of early swing with rock 'n' roll attitude.

Zal Gaz Grotto
2070 W. Stadium **663–1202**

This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Sun. 5–8 p.m., Mon. 7–10 p.m. (except Aug.), Tues. 5:30–8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest student ensemble. **Every Tues.: Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger.

December Events

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John Hinchey & Katie Whitney

GALLERIES

97 Exhibit Openings
Katie Whitney

93 The Aesthetic Movement in America
Sally Wright Day

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

76 Nightspots
John Hinchey

Klezmephonic
Sandor Slomovits

ELLIE KURTZ

The University Musical Society brings a live broadcast of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *King Lear* to the Michigan Theater Dec. 4.

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107 The Himalayan Bazaar's New Year's Eve Trek
Sherpa trekking in Ann Arbor
James M. Manheim

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **By phone:** 769–3175
- **By mail:** Katie Whitney, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **By fax:** 769–3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to AnnArborObserver.com).

★ *Denotes a free event.*

annarborobserver.com:

An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at **AnnArborObserver.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on annarborobserver.com.

arbormail:

Get your alerts by email—send a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at AnnArborObserver.com/arbormail_help.html.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.AnnArborObserver.com

1 THURSDAY

"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers. *Nov. 29–Dec. 4.* Live broadcasts by radio station 107one DJs. Cash and nonperishable food donations requested. *6 a.m.–7 p.m. (Nov. 30–Dec. 3), 6–10 a.m. (Nov. 29), and 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 4), Kroger, 3615 Washtenaw (Nov. 29 only) & 400 S. Maple (all other dates). Free admission. 761–2796.*

"Nature Tales": Leslie Science and Nature Center. *Dec. 1 & 3.* All kids ages 1–5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a program of stories and nature-based activities exploring the world of **"Wiggly Worms."** *10–11 a.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $4 per child. 997–1533.*

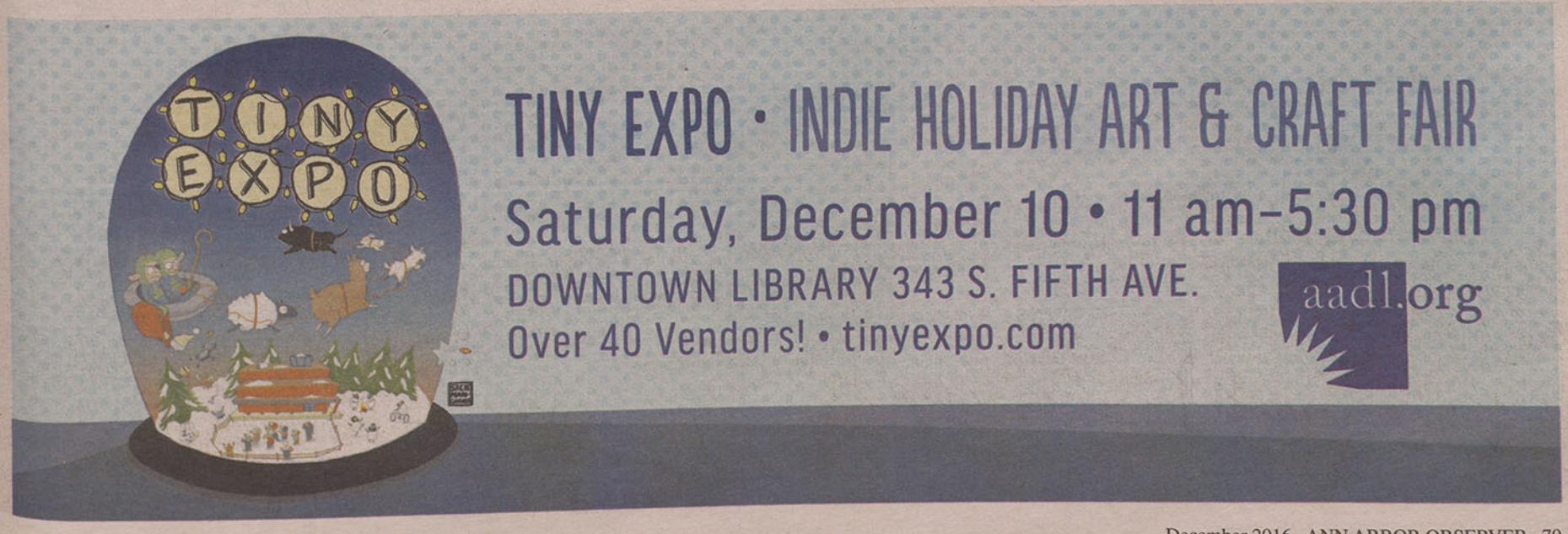
★**Mah-Jongg: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** *Every Thurs.* All seniors invited to play this intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Beginners welcome. *10 a.m.–noon, Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 332–1874.*

Social Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon. & Thurs.* All ages invited to play this intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Lunch available at 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. ($5.50; age 60 & over, $3; reservations required). *10–11:30 a.m. (Thurs.) & 1–3:30 p.m. (Mon.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★**"Against the Mystery of Kabuki Onnagata: A Labyrinth of Gendering": U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** University of Minnesota Asian languages and literatures professor Maki Isaka discusses film star Yamada Isuzu's stage career as an onnagata, the woman's part in kabuki theater that was traditionally played by a man. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6307.*

★**Gifts of Art Concert Series: U-M Hospitals.** *Every Thurs. except Dec. 29.* Performances by area musicians. *Dec. 1:* **U-M Music Majors.** *Dec. 8:* **Holiday violin music** by Ann Arbor Suzuki Institute students. *Dec. 15:* **"Holiday Harmonies"** by the local band Counterpoint. *Dec. 22:* Jewish folk music by the local band **Klezmephonic** (see review, p. 76). *12:10–1 p.m., U-M Hospital Main Lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon., Wed., & Thurs.* All ages invited to play non-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Saturday, December 10 • 11 am–5:30 pm
DOWNTOWN LIBRARY 343 S. FIFTH AVE.
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DECEMBER/HIGHLIGHTS

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY

aadl.org

Events take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room unless otherwise noted.

DEC 1 FILM & DISCUSSION ***HOW TO LET GO OF THE WORLD AND LOVE ALL THE THINGS CLIMATE CAN'T CHANGE***
THURSDAY • 6 - 9:00 PM
This special screening of the latest film by Oscar-nominated director Josh Fox (*Gasland*) focuses on the impacts climate change is having around the world. In *How to Let Go of the World and Love All The Things Climate Can't Change*, Fox contemplates our climate-impacted future, focusing on the human qualities that global warming can't destroy. *This 127-minute film is not rated. The screening will be followed by a brief discussion on climate change. This event is cosponsored by the Ann Arbor Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby and 350 SE Michigan.*

DEC 2 **WRAP IT UP! DIY GIFT-GIVING**
FRIDAY • 6:30 - 9:00 PM
Got gifts to wrap? Give them a personal touch by learning how to make your own paper gift bows and decorate wrapping paper with your own unique patterns! **WESTGATE GRADE 6-ADULT**

DEC 4 **SYRIAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION**
SUNDAY • 1 - 3:00 PM
The whole community is invited to share in food, music, and crafts in support of Syrian and other recently resettled refugees in Southeast Michigan. *This is a collaboration with the Syrian American Rescue Network and Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County.* **DOWNTOWN MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM & SECRET LAB • ALL AGES**

DEC 4 **NANOWRIMO: I WROTE A NOVEL, NOW WHAT?**
SUNDAY • 2 - 4:00 PM
Whether you participated in this year's National Novel Writing Month or you just love to write, come hear a published author's take on the process. Local author Leslie "Elle" Wright will offer tips and tricks on revising your written work and how to get published. *This program is associated with NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) and all aspiring authors are welcome! Ms. Wright's books will be available for sale.* **TRAVERWOOD GRADE 9-ADULT**

DEC 6 **TRIVIA TUESDAY WITH SWEETWATERS**
TUESDAY • 7 - 8:00 PM
Bring your team of four brilliant trivia players, order lots of caffeine, and crush other teams with your superior knowledge to win awesome prizes. *This event is cosponsored by Sweetwaters Coffee and Tea.* **WESTGATE**

DEC 6 **CHAMBER MUSIC MICHIGAN**
TUESDAY • 7 - 8:00 PM
Enjoy an evening of superb classical music, as Chamber Music Michigan presents a concert featuring Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465 "Dissonance," and Carl Maria von Weber's Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in B-flat Major, Op. 34.

DEC 7 **BUILDING MATTERS: HEAT IS NEAT!**
WEDNESDAY • 7 - 8:30 PM
Building Matters is back for a conversation that will be warming, not just for your heart, but for the rest of you: heat! We'll talk about how Ann Arbor has historically heated its buildings and the ways that has, at times literally, shaped our city. **DOWNTOWN LIBRARY SECRET LAB**

DEC 7 ***ICONIC RESTAURANTS OF ANN ARBOR***
WEDNESDAY • 7 - 8:30 PM

Through rare photographs and advertisements, co-authors Jon Milan and Gail Offen will revisit favorite area dining spots and discuss their new book *Iconic Restaurants of Ann Arbor*. *This event, hosted by Martin Bandyke of Ann Arbor's 107one, includes a book signing and books will be for sale.*

DEC 8 FILM & DISCUSSION ***ONE: A CONTEMPORARY JOURNEY TOWARDS A TIMELESS DESTINY*** **WITH LOCAL FILMMAKER CARTER**
THURSDAY • 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Join Ann Arbor filmmaker, artist, and yoga instructor Carter for a screening and discussion of his film *One: A Contemporary Journey Towards A Timeless Destiny*. Filmed in 2006, this documentary seeks to explore the meaning of life by asking the same 20 questions of teachers the world over, including Deepak Chopra, Ram Dass, Thich Nhat Hahn, Robert Thurman, and many more. This screening not only marks the 10th anniversary of the film, but also the start of the film's online streaming availability to AADL cardholders. **GRADE 6-ADULT**

DEC 10 **TINY EXPO: INDIE HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT FAIR**
SATURDAY • 11:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Join us for Tiny Expo and shop over 40 local artists and crafters selling their wares in a festive library space where you can shop local and handmade! It's a great way to support your community and find unique gifts. We'll also have several make and takes happening—including screen printing, letterpress, and button making! **• ALL AGES**

DEC 12 **COOKIES GALORE!**
MONDAY • 7 - 8:30 PM
Keegan C. Rodgers, Head Baker at the People's Food Co-Op, leads this hands-on and lively workshop on how to make cookies galore! *This event is cosponsored by the People's Food Co-Op and is part of an ongoing baking series.* **MALLETTS CREEK GRADE 6-ADULT**

DEC 13 **CONQUER YOUR CRAVINGS**
TUESDAY • 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Why do you crave things that are unhealthy? Learn how to shift your cravings and desires from things that harm you to things that promote vibrant health. *This event is co-sponsored by the People's Food Co-Op.*

DEC 15 **CAN FOOD BE ADDICTIVE? A LOOK AT WHAT WE EAT AND WHY**
THURSDAY • 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
In this talk, Professor Ashley Gearhardt, a leading researcher on food addiction, will discuss the impact of "junk" food on our brain and body across the lifespan. She'll also discuss empirically supported strategies to help you gain control over your own eating. *This program, part of the Fall "Exploring the Mind" series of talks, is cosponsored by The University of Michigan Department of Psychology.*

DEC 17 **CLASSICAL BELLS HOLIDAY CONCERT**
SATURDAY • 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Classical Bells returns to the Library for their annual concert. Classical Bells has the well-deserved reputation of "Michigan's Premier Handbell Ensemble." This event is very popular, so arrive early! **DOWNTOWN 1ST FLOOR LOBBY • ALL AGES**

DEC 19 FILM **DESIGN DISRUPTORS**
MONDAY • 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

The future of business is being written by companies and products that–intentionally or not–shake billion-dollar industries. *Design Disruptors*, a new documentary from InVision and directed by Catalyst, reveals a never-before-seen perspective on the design approaches of these companies and how they are overtaking industries through design.

FOR INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS AND MORE, VISIT AADL.ORG

sanctioned (Mon.) & ACBL-sanctioned (Wed. & Thurs.) duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. Refreshments. *Noon–3:45 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.) & 12:30–4 p.m. (Mon.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $3 (members, $2) on Mon., $7 (members, $6) on Wed. & Thurs. 794–6250.*

★"Lunch & Learn": Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* Cultural or educational program preceded at noon by a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors). *Dec. 1:* Local artist **Sophie Grillet** discusses her work in a variety of media, including acrylics, clay sculpture, and photography. *Dec. 8:* A speaker TBA discusses the **People's Food Co-op.** *Dec. 15:* EMU linguistics professor Eric Anton discusses EMU's **"Jewish Life and Language Project."** *Dec. 22:* Former Beth Aaron Congregation (Billings, MT) vice president Sally-George Wright discusses the **"Not in Our Town"** movement inspired by a 1993 series of hate crimes aimed at Beth Aaron and the community's response. *Dec. 29:* **"Coloring for Grownups."** All invited for a hands-on introduction to the benefits for adults of the pastime of coloring pictures. *1 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★"Situating Brecht's Antigone Project": U-M Classics Department. University of Toronto historical studies professor Martin Revermann discusses the importance of Brecht's 1948 production of Sophocles' classical tragedy. *4–6 p.m., 2175 Angell Hall. Free. 764–0360.*

★"Love, Friendship, and Jihad in the Age of Crusades": U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. Lecture by University of Pennsylvania Near Eastern languages and civilizations professor Paul Cobb. *4–6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615–7400.*

★"Roland Graf: From the Ground Up": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series. Talk by this Austrian artist, architect, and designer who's known for interactive installations such as the street video game *Solar Pink Pong. 5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668–8463.*

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun.–Fri., except Dec. 25.* All invited to compete in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using modern constructed (Mon.), Elder Dragon Highlander/Commander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.), standard constructed (Thurs.), and booster draft (Fri. & Sun.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards (except Fri. & Sun.). *6 p.m. (Mon.–Fri.) & noon (Sun.), Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. $5 (Tues., free; Sun. & Fri., $15 includes cards). 786–3746.*

★ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Mon.–Fri. except Dec. 22, 23, 26, 29 & 30.* All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. *6–7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), Westgate Branch, Westgate shopping center; 1–2:30 p.m. (Mon.), AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.; 7–8:30 p.m. (Mon. & Tues.), AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy.; 6–7:30 p.m. (Wed.) & 1–2:30 p.m. (Fri.), AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Ann Arbor Downtown Group Run": Running Fit. *Every Mon. & Thurs.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3–8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. *6:30 p.m. (Thurs.) & 6:15 p.m. (Mon.), Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 769–5016.*

★Annual Show-and-Tell & Holiday Party: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society. Club members show and discuss their mineral specimens. Silent auction of mineral and lapidary items. Holiday refreshments. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.*

★"3-D Printing: The Printrbot": Ann Arbor District Library. *Dec. 1, 8, & 15.* AADL staff show adults and kids in grade 6 & up how to use the Printrbot 3-D printer. *7–8 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★Ann Arbor Go Club. *Every Sun. & Thurs., except. Dec. 25.* Players of all skill levels invited to play this challenging strategy board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *7 p.m.–close (usually midnight), Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. Free. umich.edu/~goclub*

Euchre Night: Out Loud Chorus Fundraiser. All invited to compete in a euchre tournament. *7 p.m., Bona Sera, 200 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti. $10. 973–6084, 663–0036.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thurs.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned du-

plicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $7. 761–6691.*

★Stephen Ward: Nicola's Books. This U-M Afroamerican and African studies professor discusses ***In Love and Struggle: The Revolutionary Lives of James and Grace Lee Boggs,*** his new book about two largely unsung but critically important Detroit figures in the black freedom struggle. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"She Loves Me": Fathom Events. Broadcast of the Roundabout Theatre Company's Tony-winning revival of Jerry Bock, Sheldon Harnick, and Joe Masteroff's 1963 musical based on Miklos Laszlo's play *Parfumerie,* which was itself the inspiration for the 1940 film *Shop Around the Corner* and the 1998 film *You've Got Mail.* Set in 1930s Budapest, the plot concerns two sparring clerks at a perfume shop who can't seem to find common ground. Little do they know the anonymous pen pals they have both been falling for happen to be each other. The screening includes interviews with the cast and creators. *7 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter). Tickets $17–$19 in advance at fathomevents.com/event/she-loves-me and at the door. 623–7469 (Quality 16) & 973–8424 (Rave).*

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Nov. 25–Dec. 23.* Professional actors perform the 1993 Disney musical—with a script written by *Downton Abbey* screenwriter Julian Fellowes—based on the 1964 film and P.L. Travers' book about the "practically perfect" magical nanny who transforms the lives of the Banks children in 1910 London. The score includes such favorites as "Chim Chim Cher-ee," "A Spoonful of Sugar," and "Supercalifragilistic-expialidocious." *7 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets $26 (seniors, $24; youth & groups of 10 or more, $22) on Thurs.; $32 (seniors, $30; youth & groups of 10 or more, $28) on Fri. & Sat. eve.; $28 (seniors, $26; youth & groups of 10 or more, $24) for all matinees in advance at theencoretheatre.org and at the door. $15 student rush tickets (if available) an hour before showtime. 268–6200.*

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Nov. 25–Dec. 23. See review, p. 89.* Carla Milarch directs the world premiere of local composer R. Mackenzie Lewis's musical panto. When young Clara's Christmas dream goes awry, an outrageous cast of characters appears to entertain her and save her from the Mouse King. A panto is a British pantomime genre that blends children's stories with a bit of vaudeville sensibility to create a raucous family entertainment. This production features appearances by local celebrities, and all the candy you can eat. Stars Dan Morrison, Sonja Marquis, and Sarah Briggs. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. Tickets (if available) are $20 or pay what you can, in advance at theatrenova.org and at the door. Members ($75 annual donation) receive priority access to all shows. 635–8450.*

★"Hand to God": U-M Basement Arts. *Dec. 1–3.* Jordan Sam Rich directs students in Robert Askins' 2011 irreverent comedy about a recently widowed woman in small-town Texas whose pastor asks her to run the youth puppet club. When the teens' puppets become sexually attracted to each other, all hell breaks loose. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 11 p.m. (Fri.), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio One, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. facebook.com/basementarts*

"RiffTrax Holiday Special Double Feature": Fathom Events. Live broadcast of a "riffing" performance by former *Mystery Science Theater 3000* stars Michael J. Nelson, Kevin Murphy, and Bill Corbett, who aim their comic heckling at holiday photos and Christmas movies, including the 1964 sci-fi film ***Santa Claus Conquers the Martians,*** as well as a **"Christmas Shorts-Stravaganza."** With an appearance by Weird Al Yankovic. *7 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter). Tickets $14 in advance at fathomevents.com/event/rifftrax-holiday and at the door. 623–7469 (Quality 16) & 973–8424 (Rave).*

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dances to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear soft-soled shoes. *7:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 (students, free). 971–0990.*

★Comhaltas. *Every Thurs.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. *7:30–9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. facebook.com/DetroitIMA. contact@detroitirishmusic.org.*

★Louis Nagel: U-M School of Music Harold Haugh Lecture Recital. This U-M piano professor emeritus, the recipient of this year's Harold Haugh Award for excellence in private studio teaching, presents one of his popular lecture recitals. *7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever": Saline Area Players. *Dec. 1–4.* Kara Fay Cardella directs local actors in Barbara Robinson's comedy about a family of hooligans who take over the Sunday school Christmas pageant. Joseph and the Wise Men get in a fight, Mary runs away with the baby, and as the miscreants lie, steal, and smoke cigars, the pageant descends into a state of raucous hilarity that harbors a heartwarming denouement. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 1 & 2), 1 p.m. (Dec. 3), & 3 p.m. (Dec. 3 & 4), Fifth Corner, 211 Willis Rd., Saline. Tickets $5. Reservations available by phone or email to bcpe@salineareaplayers.org. salineareaplayers.org, 957–6585.*

★German Conversation. *Every Tues. & Thurs.* All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with either or both of 2 long-running groups, the German Speakers Round Table (Tues.) and the Stammtisch (Thurs.). *8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394 (Tues.) & 678–1017 (Thurs.).*

★Trombone Ensemble: U-M School of Music. U-M trombone studio students perform in trios, quartets, sextets, octets, and full ensemble. With a solo by Detroit Symphony Orchestra bass trombonist **Randy Hawes.** *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★"Mad about Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M chamber music students perform Poulenc's Sextet for Wind Quintet and Piano and his Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano; Max Bruch's Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano; and Dello Joio's Trio for Flute, Cello, and Piano. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free; donations accepted. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun. through Dec. 17.* Guy Sanville directs local actors in the world premiere of Michigan playwright Carey Crim's drama about a man and a woman, each with an assortment of troubles, who meet at a funeral and wake up together after a wine-fueled one-night stand. When an elderly neighbor shows up, confusion and chaos ensue. Cast: Randy Mantooth, Michelle Mountain, Lynch Travis. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.), 3 p.m. (Wed. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $30 (Wed.), $27 (Thurs.), $41 (Fri. eve. & weekend matinees), $46 (Sat. eve.) in advance at purplerosetheatre.org and by phone, and (if available) at the door. 433–7673.*

Matt McClowry: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 1–3.* This Dearborn native and stand-up comic is known for his self-deprecating autobiographical observational humor made piquant by an undercurrent of Jobean bewilderment. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

2 FRIDAY

★"Midnight Madness": Downtown Home & Garden. All invited for chestnuts roasted on an open fire and a petting zoo with livestock from the local Animal Oasis. Also, a performance by Ann Arbor's world-renowned boogie-woogie and blues pianist **Mark "Mr. B" Braun** at his **Joybox Express** (8–11 p.m.), the bicycle with a custom-built frame designed to carry a 352-pound Baldwin Acrosonic upright piano which Mr. B famously used to travel the entire length of the Mississippi river in 2014. *7:30 a.m.–midnight, Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

★29th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. *Dec. 2–4.* Family activities, including Santa visits and crafts. Gingerbread house displays in shop windows, and luminarias along Main St. in the evening. Merchant sales with entertainment and refreshments at many stores. The celebration also includes shows by the Chelsea Area Players Youth Theater and Ballet Chelsea. *Fri.:* **Tree lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival** (6–6:30 p.m., Pierce Park), **Santa's workshop** with storytelling and children's crafts (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea Depot), **cookie decorating** (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea ATA Martial Arts), **Common Chords** handbell choir holiday concert (7–8 p.m., Chelsea District Library McKune Room), holiday décor at the new **Chelsea Area Historical Museum** (6:30–8:30 p.m., 128 Jackson), and more. *Sat.:* **Free breakfast with Santa** (8:30–10:30 a.m., Chelsea Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center), **"Material Girls Christmas Bazaar"** for kids age 4 through 6th grade and a parents corner & bake sale (10 a.m.–4 p.m., Chelsea First United Methodist Church; preregistration required at chelseafestivals.com), **Gingerbread House decorating** for families (11 a.m.–noon & noon–1 p.m., First Congregational Church; space limited; preregistration required by calling 475–1145), **Holiday Homemade Gift workshop** for teens & tweens (1:30–3 p.m., Chelsea District Library), docent-led **Historic Homes Tour** (1–4 p.m., starts at Chelsea Area Historical Museum, 128 Jackson; $15 by calling 562–2008 and at Chelsea Pharmacy), **holiday parade** (6 p.m., along Main St.) featuring dozens of lighted floats and vehicles, marching bands, Santa, and more. *Sun.:* **Hometown Holiday Concert** (3 & 7 p.m., First Methodist Church) by the Chelsea Chamber Players, the First Methodist Mosaic Choir and church organist Kyle Webber, and 18–20 Chelsea High School string and vocal students. The program includes the Gloria from Bach's B minor Mass, Bloch's Concerto Grosso, and a Christmas Carol sing-along. **Chelsea Creche Celebration** (3–6 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1330 N. Freer) features a display of creches (Nativity scenes) from around the world, along with brief musical programs at 3 & 6 p.m. featuring traditional Christmas hymns and performances by tenor Stanford Olsen, a U-M voice professor who has been a frequent guest soloist with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. *9 a.m.–10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & noon–7 p.m. (Sun.), downtown Chelsea. Free. 475–1145.*

Annual Holiday Sale: Kiwanis Center. Dec. 2, 3, 9, & 10. Sales at the downtown and west Kiwanis centers, with doll houses and miniature trains featured at Kiwanis Center West. *9 a.m.–1 p.m., Kiwanis Center Downtown (Dec. 2, 3, & 10 only; Washington & First St.) & Kiwanis Center West (102 N. Staebler, off Jackson just east of Baker). Free admission. 604–4977.*

★Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops. *Every Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chimemaster Heather O'Neal demonstrates. *Noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. 369–3107.*

★"The Karma of Care: Thinking 'Abhidhammically' about Intra- and Inter-Personal Support in Northern Thailand": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Lecture by University of Massachusetts anthropology professor Felicity Aulino. Abhidhamma are ancient Buddhist texts. *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0352.*

★Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program. *Every Mon. & Fri.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Some experience necessary. *12:30–4:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

"Drink & Draw/Imbibe & Inscribe": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Every Fri., except Dec. 30.* All invited to draw or write. Supplies and writing and drawing prompts provided. *3–7 p.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Free admission (buy your own beer). info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

★"The Making of the 'Comilla Model': Experiments in Rural Development in East Pakistan, 1959–1971": U-M Center for South Asian Studies. Lecture by University of Illinois history professor Tariq Ali. *4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 615–4059.*

★"Musica Transalpina: Janequin and the French in Sixteenth-Century Italy": U-M School of Music. Harvard University historical musicology professor Kate van Orden uses Clément Janequin's chansons to explore how music supported performances of ethnic difference in Europe. *5 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Watkins Lecture Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"Pets & Pajamas": Huron Valley Humane Society. Kids ages 5–11 invited to watch ***Stuart Little,*** Robert Minkoff's touching 1999 adventure story, adapted from E.B. White's beloved children's

December 3 | 2pm & 7pm
December 4 | 2pm
December 10 | 7pm
December 11 | 2pm
Sugar Plum Tea
December 4 & 11 | 12:30pm
Experience the Magic
Tickets: balletchelsea.org
Chelsea, Michigan

HOLIDAY SALE
Saturday, Dec 10 -- 10 to 4
Sunday, Dec 11 -- 1 to 4
CDs, DVDs, games, puzzles, along with gift quality books for everyone on your list.
in the Multipurpose Room
The Book Shop will also be open

Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library
DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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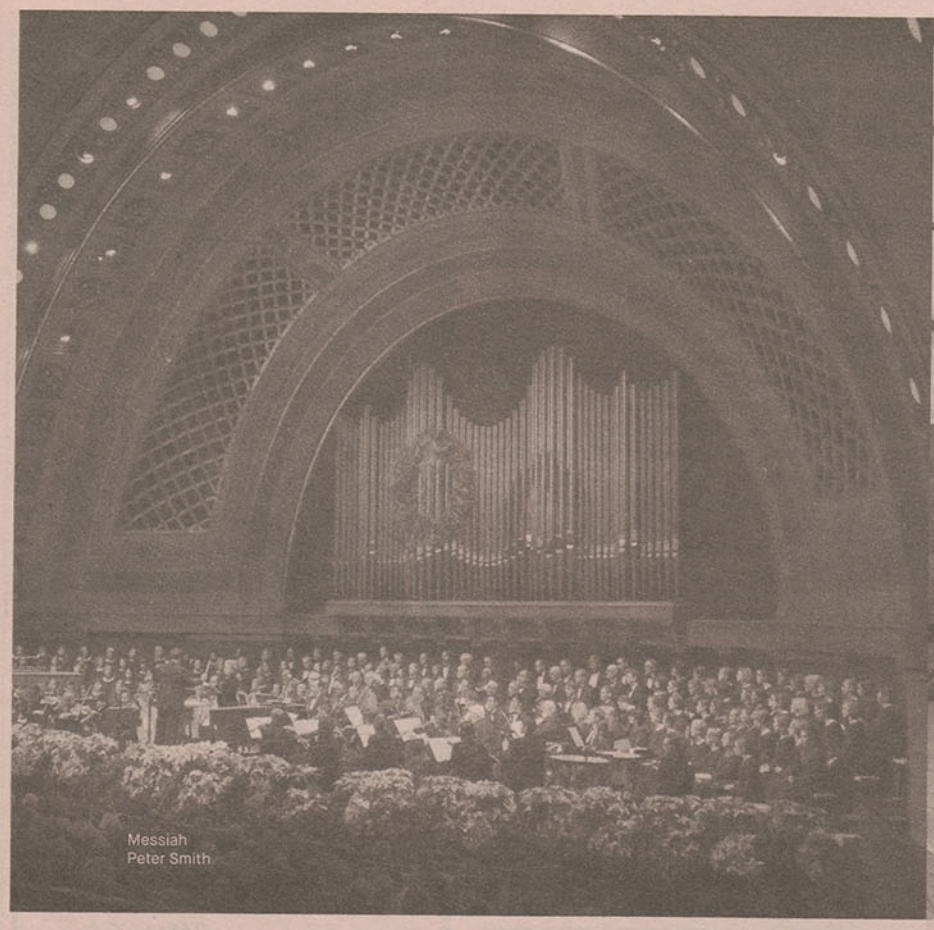
Messiah
Peter Smith

King's Singers
by Andy Staples

December Events

Handel's *Messiah*

UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Scott Hanoian, conductor
Janai Brugger, soprano
Meg Bragle, mezzo-soprano
Michele Angelini, tenor
Shenyang, bass-baritone
Joseph Gascho, harpsichord
Saturday, December 3 // 8 pm
Sunday, December 4 // 2 pm
Hill Auditorium

An eagerly anticipated holiday season tradition, these performances are ultimately the heart and soul of UMS, dating back to the organization's founding and first concerts in the 1879-80 season. The performances connect audiences not only with the talented artists on stage, but also with the friends and family who attend each year. In a true community tradition, the performances feature the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and the voices of the Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union, all under the direction of Choral Union music director Scott Hanoian.

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MEDIA PARTNER
Ann Arbor's 107one

HD Theater Broadcast
From the Royal Shakespeare Company
Shakespeare's *King Lear*

Starring **Antony Sher**
Gregory Doran, director
Sunday, December 4 // 7 pm
Michigan Theater

King Lear has ruled for many years. As age begins to overtake him, he decides to divide his kingdom among his children, living out his days without the burden of power. Misjudging his children's loyalty and finding himself alone, he is left to confront the mistakes of a life that has brought him to this point.

Presented in partnership with Michigan Theater.

Christmas Songbook
The King's Singers

Saturday, December 10 // 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

Acclaimed worldwide for their virtuosity, life-affirming energy, and charm, the King's Singers are consummate entertainers, instantly recognizable for their immaculate intonation, vocal blend, diction, incisive timing, and delightfully British wit. This special holiday program includes works by Lassus, Tchaikovsky, Holst, Rutter, and Irving Berlin, as well as many traditional favorites. "These six singers can do almost anything a full- sized chorus can do, with a degree of perfection that drops the jaw and delights the ear." *(Seattle Times)*

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2014 National Medal of Arts recipient

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Note: Most educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Ann Arbor District Library. FREE. 327–4555. AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave., various times.

Dec. 1: **"How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change"** (Josh Fox, 2016). Documentary about the impacts climate change is having around the world. Cosponsored by the Ann Arbor Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby and 350 SE Michigan. 6–9 p.m.

Dec. 8: **"One: A Contemporary Journey Towards a Timeless Destiny"** (Scott Carter, Ward M. Powers, & Diane Powers, 2006). Documentary in which an assortment of people—from Deepak Chopra and Ram Dass to Thich Nhat Hahn and Robert Thurman—are asked the same 20 questions about the meaning of life. Followed by a discussion with codirector Carter, a local yoga instructor. 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Dec. 19: **"Design Disruptors"** (Catalyst, 2016). Documentary about the rising importance of design as a competitive advantage in disruptive technologies. 7–8:30 p.m.

Ann Arbor Senior Center. $2 (members, free). 794–6250. 1320 Baldwin. 12:30–3 p.m.

Every Mon.: **"Movie Matinee,"** with films TBA.

Fathom Events. 973–8424 (Rave) & 623–7469 (Quality 16). Tickets available in advance at fathomevents.com and at the door. Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter).

Dec. 4 & 5: **"Spirited Away: 15th Anniversary"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 2001). Dazzling Oscar-winning animated fantasy about a young girl who discovers a secret world of strange spirits and sorcery. When her parents are transformed, she must find the courage to free herself and return her family to the outside world. Highest grossing film in Japanese history. With a screening of *Ghiblies: Episode 2,* an animated short about the Studio Ghibli staff who created *Spirited Away* and other popular films. The Dec. 4 screening is dubbed in English and the Dec. 5 screening has English subtitles. $11.50 (seniors, $10.50; kids, $9.50). Rave only. 7 p.m. on Dec. 5 (time TBA on Dec. 4).

Dec. 6: **"Nerdland"** (Chris Prynoski, 2016). Big screen premiere of this animated comedy about a pair of slackers who decide to become famous by trolling L.A. on a journey of reckless publicity stunts and failed heroics. With a panel discussion with the director, as well as writer and producer Andrew Kevin Walker and stars Patton Oswalt, Brendon Small, Kate Micucci, and John Ennis. Moderated by comic Blaine Capatch. Also, a screening of the short film *Titmouse.* At Rave only. Cost TBA. 8 p.m.

Dec. 7: **"Sherlock: The Abominable Bride."** Screening of this BBC feature length holiday TV special, a classic Sherlock Holmes murder mystery set in 1895 London. Stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Holmes and Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson. With an introduction to the upcoming 4th season of the show. Tickets TBA. Rave only, 7 p.m.

Dec. 11 & 14: **"From Here to Eternity"** (Fred Zinnemann, 1953). Powerful, Oscar-winning portrait of a hardheaded army private stationed in Hawaii who gets into trouble on the eve of Pearl Harbor. Based on the novel by James Jones. Burt Lancaster, Montgomery Clift, Deborah Kerr, Frank Sinatra. With commentary by Turner Classic Movies host Ben Mankiewicz. $8–$12. Dec. 11 times: 2 p.m. (both theaters) & 7 p.m. (Rave only). Dec. 14 times: 2 p.m. (Rave only) & 7 p.m. (both theaters).

Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. $5 suggested donation. 327–0270. 704 Airport Blvd., 8 p.m.

Dec. 17: **"Spiritual Cinema."** Screening of a feature film or several shorts TBA with spiritual themes. Followed by discussion.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

Dec. 30: **"Sunrise/Sunset"** (Vitaly Mansky, 2010). Documentary about an ordinary day in the life of the Dalai Lama. Russian & English, subtitles. Discussion follows.

Karma Thegsum Choling. FREE. 678–7549. 614 Miner, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 21: **"Sacred Tibet: The Path to Mount Kailash"** (Tom Venditti, 2007). Documentary about the pilgrimage of 2 men into Tibet that ends at Mount Kailash, a holy place venerated by 4 religions and billions of people, yet visited by only a hardy few. With commentary by the Dalai Lama on Tibet and its current situation under Chinese rule.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually 2–3 times a day. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 65 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8; MTF members, $7.50; weekdays before 6 p.m., $7). Michigan Theater (unless otherwise noted), times TBA unless otherwise noted.

Dec. 4: **"Elf"** (Jon Favreau, 2003). Goofy comedy starring Will Ferrell as a man raised as an elf at the North Pole who goes to NYC to reunite with his biological father. James Caan, Zooey Deschanel, Mary Steenburgen. FREE. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 8: **"Gremlins"** (Joe Dante, 1984). Comic horror fantasy about a boy who inadvertently unleashes a horde of malevolently mischievous monsters on a small town. 9:30 p.m.

Opens Dec. 9: **"Manchester by the Sea"** (Kenneth Lonergan, 2016). An uncle is forced to take care of his teenage nephew after the boy's father dies.

Dec. 9: **"Warren Miller's Here, There, & Everywhere"** (Warren Miller, 2016). Recognized as the world's premier ski filmmaker, Miller began making family-oriented ski adventure films in 1950. Though no longer directed by Miller, the films are still a major draw on the West Coast, where they pack houses for weeklong runs, and at the Michigan Theater, whose annual showing usually draws 800 to 1,000 viewers. Tickets $15 (kids age 12 & under, $12) in advance at Sun & Snow & all Ticketmaster outlets (ticketmaster.com), and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745–3000. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 11: **"Prancer"** (John Hancock, 1989). A farm girl nurses a wounded reindeer she believes is one of Santa's, hoping to bring it back to health in time for Christmas. FREE. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 18: **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). Christmas classic about a man who wants to lasso the moon and an angel who hasn't yet earned his wings. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. FREE. 1:30 p.m.

Opens Dec. 21: **"Jackie"** (Pablo Larraín, 2016). Biopic that stars Natalie Portman as Jackie Kennedy in the wake of JFK's assassination.

Dec. 25: **"Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory"** (Mel Stuart, 1971). Delightfully unsettling musical fantasy based on the Roald Dahl book about a boy who visits a candy factory. Gene Wilder. Sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth. Tickets $7 in advance at bit.ly/Dec25TBEMovie; $10 (kids age 2–12, $7; age 1 & under, free) at the door. 10:30 a.m. (doors open at 10 a.m.).

Dec. dates TBA: **"Eagle Huntress"** (Otto Bell, 2016). Documentary about Aisholpan, a 13-year-old training to become the first female in 12 generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter. **"The Pickle Recipe"** (Michael Manasseri, 2016). Comedy about a desperate party emcee who tries to steal his grandmother's top secret pickle recipe. **"Lion"** (Garth Davis, 2016). A 30-year-old man sets out to find his lost family who he last saw as a 5-year-old in India. **"La La Land"** (Damiel Chazelle, 2016). Musical comedy about a jazz pianist who falls for an aspiring actress in L.A. Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone.

U-M English Department Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group. FREE. Pizza. 764–2253. 1180 U-M Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel at Murfin, North Campus. 7 p.m.

Dec. 13: **"The Congress"** (Ari Folman, 2013). Surreal sci-fi allegory, part live action and part animation, about a movie studio that buys the rights to actress Robin Wright's body, digitizing it and casting the digitized version in various films. Stars Robin Wright, Harvey Keitel, Jon Hamm, & Paul Giamatti.

U-M School of Music. FREE. 615–3204. U-M Moore Bldg. Watkins Lecture Hall (1100 Baits, off Broadway, North Campus), 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 2: **"Composed"** (John Beder, 2016). Documentary about professional classical musicians that explores the many ways we experience and can address performance anxiety. Followed by a **Q&A** with the director, local psychologist and pianist **Julie Nagel,** local pianist **Louis Nagel,** and U-M counselor **Emily Hyssong.**

book about a mouse adopted by human parents. Also, a chance to interact with adoptable pets. Pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. *5–9 p.m., Humane Society, 3100 Cherry Hill (south off Plymouth east of Dixboro). $35 ($15 for additional children). Preregistration required. hshv.org, 661–3575.*

"21st Annual Dr. Porter Synchronized Skating Classic": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. *Dec. 2–4.* 150 teams from across the U.S. and Canada compete in the largest synchronized team skating competition in the world. *6–8 p.m. (Fri.), 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m. (Sat.), 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. (Sun.), Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. 1-day pass: $10 (students & seniors, $8). Weekend pass: $25 (students & seniors, $20). 213–6768.*

"8th Annual KindleFest: A Christkindlmarket": Kerrytown District Association. A holiday sale featuring local artisans and farmers, live music by a trombone choir, a **lantern parade** (6:30 p.m., $10 per lantern or bring your own, lantern purchases available beginning at 5 p.m.) with caroling, fire pits, and a heated tent. German food, sweets, and beverages. Tonight is also **"Midnight Madness"** (6 p.m.–midnight) in the Kerrytown Market & Shops, with special holiday sales and treats, live music by the local swing- and Gypsy-influenced klezmer band **Klezmephonic** (see review, p. 76) and **strolling carolers**, and more. *6–10 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 662–5008.*

★"Wrap It Up: DIY Gift Giving": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults & teens in grade 6 & up invited to make a paper bow and decorate wrapping paper with your own patterns. *6:30–9 p.m. p.m., AADL Westgate Branch, Westgate shopping center, 2503 Jackson. Free. 327–8301.*

First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for dinner, preceded by a brief Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, wine and challah, and discussion on a theme TBA. Children welcome. *6:30–9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 (family, $25). Reservations required at jewishculturalsociety.org. 975–9872.*

"Christmas at the Mansion": Dexter Area Historical Society. *Dec. 2–4.* Three days of seasonal events at Gordon Hall, the 19th-century

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mansion built by Dexter founder Judge Samuel Dexter whose many rooms have all been lavishly decorated for the holidays. *Dec. 2 & 3:* **"Kick-off Weekend."** Display of the museum's **Christmas Vintage Collection,** Milt Campbell's huge collection of Department 56 collectible holiday houses, buildings, and figures that was once traditionally seen in the windows of Huron Camera in downtown Dexter throughout the holiday season. The Friday evening fundraiser preview includes hors d'oeuvres, spirits, & desserts. On Sat., **Santa** is on hand to talk with kids, who also can make their own gingerbread house to take home. Also, the museum hosts an **open house** ($5 per adult) to view the Christmas Vintage Collection, 6–8 p.m. on Dec. 10, 18, 27, & 28. *Dec. 4:* **"If Teapots Could Talk: A Christmas Tea."** Light lunch with tea sandwiches and desserts and tour of Gordon Hall. *6:30–9:30 p.m. (Fri.), 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.), and 1 & 4 p.m. seatings (Sun.), Gordon Hall, 8347 Island Lake Rd. (off Dexter-Pinckney Rd. just west of downtown Dexter). $50 on Fri., $5 on Sat., $25 on Sun. Reservations required on Fri. & Sun. by calling 395–4106. 426–4767.*

★**"Christmas in the Village": Manchester Chamber of Commerce.** *Dec. 2 & 3.* Downtown Manchester bustles with holiday activities. The festivities kick off with a **parade** that brings Santa down Main Street to the mill where he lights the Christmas tree and greets children. Also, several craft and artisan shows, greens sales, bake sales, and more. *6:30 p.m. (Fri.) and 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.), downtown Manchester. Free admission. 476–4565.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 663–2037.*

★**"Polar Express Pajama Storytime": Barnes & Noble.** Barnes & Noble staff present an interactive reading of Chris Van Allsburg's Caldecott Medal–winning tale of a magical train ride on Christmas Eve. Also, craft activities for kids age 3 & up, who are invited to come in bedtime attire (complete with pillows and stuffed animals). *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations required. 973–0846.*

★**"Midnight Madness": Main Street Area Association.** Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Appearances by Santa and Miss Washtenaw County. Sidewalk entertainment by Elvis impersonator **Chris Solano,** the vocal jazz octet **Midnight Blue,** the Sweet Adelines quartet **Anything Goes,** and the **Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** Also, Santa's Mailbox is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy of the MSAA) through Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. in front of Conor O'Neill's (318 S. Main; include a return address to receive a response from Santa). *7–9 p.m. (many stores stay open till midnight), Main Street shopping areas. Free admission. 668–7112.*

★**"An Organist's Christmas": American Guild of Organists.** A festive program of Christmas music, including a performance by the **Boychoir of Ann Arbor**, a sing-along of favorite carols, and solo performances on the church's impressive pipe organ by local organists **Joshua Boyd, Shin-Ae Chun,** and **Timothy Huth.** *7–9 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free, but donations accepted. 662–4466.*

"Christmas Carol'd": EMU Theatre Department. *Dec. 2–4 & 8–11.* EMU drama professor Terry Heck Seibert directs EMU drama students in local playwright Joseph Zettelmaier's fast-paced, gleefully inventive 2009 adaptation of Dickens' classic Christmas tale in which 5 actors play more than 40 roles. Recommended for audiences age 8 & older. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), EMU Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell at Jarvis), Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $12; kids 12 & under, $7) in advance at emutix.com and by phone (487–2282), and at the door. 487–1221.*

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Hand to God": U-M Basement Arts.** See 1 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

"Punk Music Night": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Funky Frosty Friday. All invited to skate to vintage punk records. Prizes for best costume. *7:15–8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 794–6234.*

"Canimal House": U-M Groove. This U-M student percussion-and-dance ensemble performs high-energy percussion using traditional and nontraditional instruments (trash cans, propane tanks, toothbrushes, and more). With performances by other U-M student groups. *7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), Michigan Theater. Tickets $8 (students, $5) in advance ticketmaster.com, and (if available) at the door. (800) 745–3000.*

39th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. *Dec. 2–4.* Elegantly elaborate medieval English pageant celebrating Christ's birth with a blend of religious pageantry and secular pomp. Gerald Dzuiblinski and Brian Altevogt direct a large cast of Concordia students, faculty, and staff as Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. With musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 2 & 3) & 4 p.m. (Dec. 4), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $8–$15 in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office. 995–7537.*

Winter Showcase: Footnotes Ballroom Company. Performances by Footnotes students and professional dancers. Also, food and open dancing to music spun by a DJ. This year's theme is **"Candyland."** The program begins with a 45-minute dance lesson. *7:30 p.m., 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). Tickets $25 in advance; $35 at the door. 926–0107.*

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": EMU Dance Program. EMU dance students perform Mendelssohn's classical ballet, adapted from Shakespeare's comic romance. The score is performed live by the **EMU Symphony Orchestra.** An abridged version of this program is presented earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in 2 free 50-minute **children's concerts** (reservations required at 487–2448). *7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 (seniors & students, $8; children under 12, $6) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.*

"Mr. Magnolia": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. *Dec. 2–4.* Chia-Yu Tang directs local young actors in his original play based on the story of Mulan, a young woman who disguises herself as a man in order to take her aged father's place in the military. Cast: Amalia Chappell-Lakin, Niko Galifianakis, Jada Green, Elijah Hatcher-Kay, Abigail Lee, Ainsley Maddock, Annika Maddock, Ellie Maloy, Sarika Pai, Gillian Perry, Qi-Mei Tang, Ian Weintraub, and Mary Ziegler. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 2) and 1 & 3:30 p.m. (Dec. 3 & 4), Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline. Tickets $8 (kids, $5). 971–2228.*

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever": Saline Area Players. See 1 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. *8–10 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (enter through Haven Hall on the Diag side of the building). Free. 764–3440.*

"61st Annual Study Break Concert": U-M Friars. This self-styled "crack squad of 'supercroon-ers,'" an a cappella octet drawn from the Men's Glee Club, performs an eclectic mix of everything from slow ballads to upbeat dance tunes to original parodies that give a college-themed twist to classic songs. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. $10 (students, $5). um.friars@umich.edu*

"Sounds of the Season": Measure for Measure. This local men's chorus, directed by Pioneer High School choir director Steven Lorenz, and the **MSU Men's Glee Club** perform separate programs and come together to sing Aaron Copland's magnificent "Zion's Walls" and Wendell Whalum's "Betelehemu." *8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium. $18 (kids age 11 & under and seniors, $12) in advance at measure-for-measure.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 649–7664.*

Christine Lavin & Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Singer-songwriter duo. A veteran New York City artist who has been described as a mix of Bette Midler, Tom Lehrer, Steve Goodman, and Janis Ian, Lavin is known for the sharp wit and comically warped perspectives of songs like "Stop Sobbing … He's an Idiot" and "Tom Cruise Scares Me." She's also known for her bittersweet miniatures of lost romance, and she's a tastily tuneful composer, a superb guitarist, and a playfully unpredictable performer whose shows are always sprinkled with a healthy dose of between-songs humor and spiky commentary. White, whose fans include Lavin and Livingston Taylor, is a veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts, who writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and

comedy. He's released 4 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Winning Streak. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department. *Dec. 2 & 3.* U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $7 at the door only. 763–5460.*

★**"Murder, by Chanel": U-M Residential College Players.** *Dec. 2 & 3.* RC students perform fellow RC student Skyler Tarnas' witty drama that traces the journey of trophy wife-turned-killer as she attempts to cover up her husband's accidental death, digging herself in deeper with a colorful and vicious cast of characters with every move she makes. *8 p.m., Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free; donations welcome. 763–0176.*

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Matt McClowry: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Fri.* Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. 11:30 p.m.–1 a.m. is blues dancing. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a free beginner lesson. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main. $5 (students with ID, $4; $1 discount for AACTMAD members). 417–9857.*

3 SATURDAY

"Washtenaw County Gulls": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS member Rob French leads a trip (in the WAS van) to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township to look for unusual species of gulls. Dress for the weather; the landfill is usually windy. *8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., meet at the Park-n-Ride lot, Plymouth Rd. at US-23. $5 minimum donation for van rental & fuel. Space limited; preregistration required at washtenawaudubon.org/events/eventlists/allevents.*

★**Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division.** *Dec. 3 & 10.* All invited to help maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes; tools, snacks, & know-how provided. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. *Dec. 3:* **Ruthven Nature Area** *(meet at the Gallup Park boat launch, southeast corner of Huron Pkwy. at Geddes)* to remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle and continue the restoration of the native habitat, which includes a kame, a landform resulting from a crack in a glacier filling with sediment. *Dec. 10:* **Miller Nature Area** *(meet at the entrance on Arborview, just east of Wildwood off Miller)* to remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle from this 22-acre site that features magnificent elms and miles of winding trails. *9 a.m.–noon, various locations. Free. 794–6627.*

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Senior Center. Sale of handmade gifts and baked goods. Also, a Grandma's Attic rummage sale. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., DSC, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 426–7737.*

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Heritage Guild. A sale of handcrafted gifts and decorations and homemade baked and canned goods. Raffle. Also, the museum gift shop is open. Proceeds benefit the museum. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Dexter Area Historical Museum, 3443 Inverness, Dexter. Free admission. 426–2519.*

33rd Annual Arts & Crafts Festival: Ann Arbor City Club. Juried show and sale of photography, jewelry, ceramics, nature crafts, woodworking, watercolors, soaps, textiles, and much more by 50 vendors. Also, a sale of holiday greens, including wreaths, roping, poinsettias, and ribbon bows. Lunch available (11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.). *9 a.m.–4 p.m., AACC, 1830 Washtenaw. $3 admission. 662–3279.*

★**"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Natural History Museum.** This family-oriented dinosaur program is highlighted by the planetarium show "Did an Asteroid Really Kill the Dinosaurs?" (2:30 p.m.). Also, a fossil dig and a chance to make your own cast of a dinosaur tooth or claw, a dinosaur craft and dinosaur games, a chance to meet and talk with some U-M paleontologists, and other family-oriented demonstrations and activities. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free admission. The planetarium show is $5. 764–0478.*

Winterberry Holiday Fair: Dexter United Methodist Church. Sale of crafts and goods by local artists, including paper goods and cards, maple syrup, hand-painted ornaments, jewelry, recycled dolls, handmade scarves and hats, coffee, chocolate, and more. Also, rummage sale items, gift baskets, a book sale, and a luncheon (11 a.m.–2 p.m.) with homemade soup, sandwiches, and desserts. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., DUMC, 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter. Free admission. 426–8480.*

★**"Winter Festival": Rudolf Steiner School.** An artisan market, a toy room, storytelling and puppet theater, and kids' activities, including jump rope winding and silk dyeing. Also, several themed rooms, including the **Snow Queen's Castle,** a kids-only **King Winter's Café,** and the **Magician's Maze.** Musical performances, raffle, and refreshments. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995–4141.*

★**"A Global Security System: An Alternative to War": Public Citizens of Washtenaw (formerly Gray Panthers of Washtenaw).** Showing of this video from the recent National "No War" Conference of the World Beyond War, followed by discussion. Also, activists invited to discuss their recent social justice activities. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. *9:45 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 484–1628.*

★**"Santa Visits Kerrytown": Kerrytown Market and Shops.** *Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, & 18.* Humans of Ann Arbor photographer Susan K. Campbell is on hand to take photos, which will be posted on one of the Kerrytown Market and Shops trees the following week. *10 a.m.–2 p.m. (Sat.) & 1–3 p.m. (Sun.), Kerrytown Market & Shops upstairs. Free. 662–5008.*

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. *Dec. 3 & 4.* A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics. Also, a kids' area with gifts priced for their budgets. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Potters Guild Studio, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663–4970.*

"Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Farm Museum. *Dec. 3 & 4.* This German immigrant pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas as costumed guides lead tours of the 2-story brick farmhouse, 1840s log house, outbuildings, and the one-room Dewey School. Also, sales of baked goods, holiday greens, and gifts. Live entertainment TBA. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & noon–4 p.m. (Sun.), Waterloo Farm Museum, 13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. 5 miles north from I-94 exit 153), Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. $5 admission (kids ages 5–12, $2; age 4 & under, free). (517) 596–2254.*

"Hort Couture": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All kids, accompanied by a parent, invited to explore the roots of fashion and make a decorated textile to take home. In conjunction with the current *Avant Garden* exhibit (see Galleries, p. 97). *10 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. $10 per child; metered parking. Preregistration recommended. 647–7600.*

All the Trimmings Holiday Art Show. An array of works by local artisans, including wood carvings, counted cross-stitch embroidery, folk paintings, pastels, textiles, jewelry, teddy bears, rug hooking, chair caning, and more. Also, antiques & collectibles, locally roasted coffee, and fresh Christmas greens. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, W. Old US-12 at Manchester Rd., Chelsea. Free admission. 475–2159.*

★**Christmas Party: Downtown Home & Garden.** Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them Christmas oranges, and take their Christmas lists. Free eggnog, hot cider, chestnuts roasted on an open fire, cranberry salad and other side dishes, and, while they last, mouth-watering morsels of smoked Christmas turkey. Also, a performance by the Community High School Jazz Band. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

★**Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway.** *Dec. 3, 17, & 28.* One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Proceeds from the Dec. 28 race benefit the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m.–midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. $16 to race ($8 to rent a car, if available). (517) 960–5252.*

Ann Arbor Artists' Collective
GIFT-FEST
SUNDAY • DECEMBER 4th • 10-4
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ART FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Discover the roots of fashion

In our holiday exhibit "Avant Garden - Weaving Fashion & Nature Together"

Where did you get that dress? Our holiday exhibit "Avant Garden" takes a look at the many ways nature influences fashion's designs, textiles, and colors. Starring a collection of six living dresses and a suit constructed from plant material such as succulents, ferns, and moss. Exhibit also includes seasonal flower display and decorated holiday idea trees.

Through January 8, 2017. Open daily 10 am-4:30 pm. Wednesdays until 8 pm. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Eve. Open New Year's day 10-4:30 pm. Free.

And more

Artisan's Market: Sun., Dec. 4, 10 am-4 pm A selection of art and handcrafted items from local artists.

Holiday Greens Market, Sat., Dec. 10, 10 am-noon Make a traditional wreath, mantelpiece design, or table decoration. $20 fee. Register through Ann Arbor Garden Club: tricialin@hotmail.com.

A Visit with Father Christmas, Sat., Dec. 17, noon-2 pm
A great photo opp for the whole family with the one and only Father Christmas. Free.

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★**"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department.** Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M scholars. Today: **"Capitalizing on Diversity: Planet Formation Boundary Conditions on the Origins of Life."** U-M astronomy professor Michael Meyer discusses the circumstellar disks within which planets form. *10:30 a.m., 170 & 182 Weiser Hall (formerly the Dennison Bldg.), 500 Church. Free. 764–4437.*

"Bilingual Parenting Playclass": Manzanitas Spanish Immersion Preschool. Story, movement, and play activities conducted in Spanish. For kids ages 10 months to 2 years, accompanied by a parent. *10:30–11:30 a.m., Manzanitas, 2626 Packard. $5 suggested donation. 975–9104.*

"The Little Scientist Club": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Every Tues. & Sat., except Dec. 24.* Crafts, science-themed stories, and hands-on activities for young kids, accompanied by a parent. Geared toward kids ages 3–6; older siblings welcome. *10:30–11:30 a.m. (Sat.) & 9:30–10:30 a.m. (Tues.), AAHOM Green Room (lower level), 220 E. Ann. $12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

Family Make & Take Projects: Maker Works. *Dec. 3, 10, 17, & 24.* All families invited to work on crafts to take home, with experts on hand to offer guidance. Projects include **metal lawn ornaments** (Dec. 3), **forged bracelets** (Dec. 10 & 24), **metal trees** (Dec. 17), and a **beginner's toolbox** (Dec. 17, noon). Also, **"Holiday Make & Takes"** (custom ornament-making kits, $15–$25) available Dec. 3, 10, & 17, with the option to assemble them in the shop. *11 a.m. (except as noted), Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd. north of Ellsworth). $50 (except metal trees, $20). frontdesk@maker-works.com, 222–4911.*

★**"Wonderful and Unusual Gifts": Nature's Expressions.** *Nov. 26 & 27 and Dec. 3 & 4.* Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free admission. 994–3048.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Sat. except Dec. 24.* Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids age 3 & up. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Story Time: Bookbound.** *Every Tues. & Sat., except Dec. 24.* Linda Zimmer reads seasonal stories for kids age 6 & under. *11 a.m. (Sat.) & 6 p.m. (Tues.), Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369–4345.*

★**"Hunting Mammoths and Mastodons": U-M Natural History Museum.** *Every Sat. & Sun. through Dec. 11.* Hands-on 20-minute interactive demo exploring some of the evidence of mastodon and mammoth hunting by people who lived in Michigan between 10 and 15 thousand years ago. Also, info about the recent Bristle mammoth find on a Chelsea farm. Geared toward adults and kids age 5 & up. *11 a.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

"Annual Croissant Concert": Kerrytown Concert House. A popular holiday tradition featuring **Today's Brass Quintet,** an ensemble of area professional musicians that performs pop, classic, and holiday tunes. Members are trumpeters Mitchell Wechsler and Jean Moorehead Libs, tuba player Joseph DeMarsh, trombonist Brian Robson, and French horn player Alan Taplin. Croissants, coffee, & juice. *11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

★**"Storytime at the Museum": UMMA.** U-M student docents and UMMA staffers read stories related to the art on display. For kids ages 4–7 accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. *11:15 a.m.–noon, UMMA (meet in front of the museum store), 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

Annual Meeting: Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association. Talks on sustainable energy by Michigan Conservative Energy Forum executive director Larry Ward and U-M sustainable science, technology, and commerce professor Tom Lyon. Also, an update on club business and plans for the coming year. Lunch. *11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. $15. Preregistration available at 2glrea.org/about/events/2016–annual-meeting.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Sat.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Discs can be borrowed at park office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $7 per player; free for spectators. $10 vehicle entrance fee. 449–4300.*

Open Studio & Art Sale. *Dec. 3 & 4.* Show and sale of drawings, paintings, and prints by local artists Helen Gotlib and Dylan Strzynski. Also, a chance to look at their works in progress. *Noon–5 p.m., 7281 Toma Rd., Dexter. Free admission. helengotlib@gmail.com*

"The Magic Flute": Fathom Events. Rebroadcast of the Metropolitan Opera's 2006 production of Mozart's beloved "opera fantaisie." At once a love story, a whimsical comedy, and an adventure filled with sinister deceptions, *The Magic Flute* is above all an unsurpassed celebration, by turns jubilant and unsettlingly haunting, of the power of music. *12:55 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter). Tickets $14 in advance at fathomevents.com/event/the-magic-flute and at the door. 623–7469 (Quality 16) & 973–8424 (Rave).*

★**"Read to Rikki the Dog": Nicola's Books.** All beginning readers invited to read one-on-one to Rikki, a golden retriever who's a very good listener. *1–2:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"Professor Ray's Everyday Science: Electroneek": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 3 & 4.* Science experiments that demonstrate electronic charge and discharge. *1 & 3 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

★**"SCBWI Merry Mitten Holiday Event": Nicola's Books.** Members of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators are on hand to sign and chat about their books. *1–3 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**German Family Open House: Kempf House Museum.** *Dec. 3 & 4.* Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, which is decked out with a traditional tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical early 20th-century German American celebration of Christmas. Christmas cookies. Also, on Dec. 4 only, **caroling** (4–5 p.m.) around Kempf House's 1877 Steinway grand piano (see My Town, p. 27). *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994–4898.*

★**"World Music and DJing": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local DJ Brian Alvarez introduces kids in grades 3–6 to the art of DJing a program with music from different cultures using a so-called "soul clap" exercise to match and modulate the beats from one cut to the next. *1–2 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever": Saline Area Players. See 1 Thursday. 1 & 3 p.m.

"Mr. Magnolia": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. See 2 Friday. 1 & 3:30 p.m.

"Frosty": Theatreworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned New York City–based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present Barter Theatre (Abdingdon, VA) playwright-in-residence Catherine Bush's new musical about a young NYC orphan who finds a magical hat that brings to life a snowman who helps him try to find his real family in time for Christmas. Recommended for theatergoers in grades K–5 & their families. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $12 (MTF members, $10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745–3000.*

★**Holiday Nature Craft: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Kelsey Bolda shows how to make milkweed pod poinsettias, cinnamon dough birds, and pinecone trees. *2–4 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Meeting Rm., 3200 Jennings, north off North Territorial, Dexter. Free; $6 park entry fee. 971–6337.*

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Natural History Museum.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

"The Nutcracker": Randazzo Dance Company. *Dec. 3 & 4.* Sara Randazzo directs this local company and guest Boston Ballet dancers **Hannah Bettes** and **Lawrence Rines** in new choreography of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. *2 & 7:30 p.m. (Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Huron High School Auditorium, 2727 Fuller. Tickets $18 (students & seniors, $10) in advance at randazzodancecompany.com and at the door. kathywaugh@gmail.com*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Sat.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners wel-

come. Attendees asked to call ahead if there's inclement weather. *2:30–5 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. juggling.info@umich.edu, umich.edu/~juggle, 761–1115.*

★"Felt Gift Boxes": Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *3–4 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Strum & Drum": Oz's Music Environment. Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. Also, at 4 p.m. a free **Kids Open Stage.** *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $15 per family. 662–8283.*

★Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Dec. 3 & 17.* All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook,* Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection,* and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. *3–6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 994–9307.*

★"Faith and Doubt": Vedanta Study Circle. Talk by Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, D.C. minister Swami Atmajnanananda. Followed by Q&A. *3–5 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free, but donations accepted. Preregistration requested by email to a2vedanta@gmail.com. 769–4917.*

20th Annual Holiday Home Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels Fundraiser. Tour of 5 historic Ypsilanti homes that are decorated for the holidays. Also, a strolling dinner of food from area restaurants, live music, and an **afterglow dessert reception** (8–11 p.m.) at the Hutchinson Mansion. *3–9 p.m., various locations. Tickets $50 in advance at ymow.org, Nelson Amos Studio, Haab's restaurant, and the YMOW office. 487–9669.*

"Icebreakers ^2": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* All invited to play low-key parlor games. *4–7 p.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Free admission (buy your own beer). info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

★Annual Holiday Parade: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. The 41st annual parade features floats, bands, baton twirlers, unicyclists, dancers, Mrs. Claus, horses, goats, dogs, a train boxcar, a hot air balloon, and Santa in his sleigh with his chief elf. This year's theme is "A Saline Christmas Carol." *5:30–7 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429–4494.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Kennesaw State. The U-M also has games this month against **Texas** (Dec. 6, 9 p.m.), **Central Arkansas** (Dec. 13, 9 p.m.), **Maryland-Eastern Shore** (Dec. 17, 3 p.m.), and **Furman** (Dec. 22, 7 p.m.). *Time TBA, Crisler Center. Ticket prices TBA at mgoblue.com/tickets. 764–0247.*

U-M Amazin' Blue. This a cappella ensemble performs pop songs. *7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $7 (students, $5). marboynt@umich.edu*

"21st Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Seasonal Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. This ad hoc local multiethnic vocal ensemble presents an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide giving voice to desires for social change, peace, and justice. The concert features works performed with and without instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs. Performers include Faye Askew-King, Cassandra Compton-Montgomery, Deborah Greene, D. Yarrow Halstead, Gwynne Jennings, Cathy Keresztesi-Stevens, Edie Lewis, Laura Machida, Jeff Pickell, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, La'Ron Williams, and Robin Wilson along with 2 guest instrumentalists, keyboard virtuoso Brian Buckner and guitarist Sam Clark. Reception follows. Proceeds benefit the Washtenaw County chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. *7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $15 in advance before Dec. 1, $20 (or what you can afford to pay) at the door. Kids under age 12, free. 761–7962, 369–4977.*

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. *Dec. 3, 4, 10, & 11.* Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers ages 8–18 in a production of her choreography of Tchaikovsky's ballet, with narration based on E.T.A. Hoffman's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." The Sun. matinee is preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a **Sugar Plum Fairy Tea** ($12 in advance only) featuring cast visits and photos, and refreshments. *2 p.m. (Sun. & Dec. 3) & 7 p.m. (Sat.), Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. $18 (seniors age 60 & over, $15; students, $12) in advance at balletchelsea.org and at the door. 475–3070.*

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": EMU Theatre Department. See 2 Friday. 7 p.m.

★"Hand to God": U-M Basement Arts. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★"DIY Snow Globes": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to bring a figurine or toy to install in a snow globe. Other materials provided. *7:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate Branch, Westgate shopping center, 2503 Jackson. Free. 327–8301.*

"Drum 4 Wellness Circle": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a drum circle led by percussionist Curtis Glatter. Bring a drum or use one provided. *7:30–9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $5 suggested donation. 480–1219.*

39th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 2 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Martha vander Kolk calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange (except as noted), 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., just south of Oak Valley Dr. $10 (members, $9; students, $5). 769–1052.*

"138th Annual Handel's Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). *Dec. 3 & 4.* Scott Hanoian directs the 175-voice Choral Union, harpsichordist **Joseph Gascho,** and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano **Janai Brugger,** mezzo-soprano **Meg Bragle,** tenor **Michele Angelini,** and bass-baritone **Shenyang.** The Choral Union *Messiah,* featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. *8 p.m. (Dec. 3) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 4), Hill Auditorium. $12–$36 in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

The Jamie Baum Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House. This NYC band, led by flutist and Guggenheim fellow Baum, performs jazz standards and originals in a traditional format with a twist: the flutist replaces the horn player. The *Washington Post* calls Baum's playing "undoubtedly beautiful and at times ethereal, but also fiery and complex." *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30. Reservations recommended. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department. See 2 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★"Murder, by Chanel": U-M Residential College Players. See 2 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Pointless Improv: Holiday Style": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Every Fri. & Sat. through Dec. 23.* Audience members invited to tell funny, awkward, sad, or wacky holiday stories. Followed by comedic improv based on the stories. The 10 p.m. Friday show is **"Crazy Holiday Feats."** *8 & 10 p.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Tickets $12 (8 p.m.) & $10 (10 p.m.). info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

Milonga: Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *Dec. 3 & 17.* Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. *8 p.m.–midnight, Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. (Dec. 3) & Michigan Union Anderson Rm. (Dec. 17). $10 (members, $5). umich.edu/~matc*

Matt McClowry: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

4 SUNDAY

★"Caring Santa": Briarwood. All kids with special needs are invited for a "sensory friendly" visit with Santa. The event is held when the mall is closed to create a calmer environment. *9–10:30 a.m., Briarwood mall. Free. Preregistration requested at simon.com/caringsanta. 769–9610.*

Saline Antiques & Vintage Market. Show and sale of antiques and vintage items in various styles, including Americana, art deco, mission, mid-century modern, industrial, shabby chic, continental, and more. Deliveries available. Concessions. Leashed pets welcome. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $6 (children age 15 & under accompanied by an adult, free). salinemarket@gmail.com, (937) 875–0808.*

★Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Sun., Dec.–Mar.* The as-

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HOLIDAY POPS

Friday, December 9 • 8:00 p.m.
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Tickets range $10- $52

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Ring in the holiday spirit with some of Ann Arbor's best choruses including Measure for Measure, Pioneer, Huron and Saline High School Choruses.

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An Almost British Christmas

Theatre Nova's take on panto

Though panto is short for pantomime, it has nothing to do with silent mimes wearing white makeup, berets, and striped shirts. The traditional British family entertainment is more like vaudeville meets melodrama meets commedia dell'arte: a zany, wacky mash-up of sketch comedy, music, and stock characters—like the cross-dressing Panto Dame—plus bits of audience participation. It's not sophisticated, highbrow theater, but rowdy, raucous entertainment filled with silly slapstick, frequent pratfalls, and madcap chase scenes. It is full of sly references to current events, jokes, and double entendres that fly right over the heads of the younger set but land unerringly on grownup funny bones.

Theatre Nova premiered a local Americanized version of a panto last holiday season with *An Almost British Christmas*. Panto 2015, which was very loosely related to the story of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, featured Rudolph herself imaginatively costumed in antlers and pom-pom tail, a cross-dressed Mrs. Santa Claus, an elf, and even the Abominable Snowman. Throughout the play the actors raced around breathlessly, chased each other through the aisles and the audience, and frequently slammed hilariously into the immovable metal pole in the center of the Yellow Barn's stage.

This year's panto promises similar high jinks, with variations on yet another familiar and beloved Christmas tale, *The Nutcracker,* this time the original German version, *Nussknacker und Mausekönig.* "The way we do the panto," says Theatre Nova founder and artistic director Carla Milarch, "I come up with a first draft of the script, and then the cast takes it and improvises and inserts their own flavor." Sonja Marquis (most recently in Encore Musical Theatre's *Always Patsy Cline),* Dan Morrison (who appeared in *The Full Monty* at EMT), and Sarah Stevens Briggs (who was also in *The Full Monty* and will be in Wild Swan's upcoming *A Christmas Carol)* will between them portray Clara, the Mouse King, and Tante Drosselmeyer, this year's Panto Dame, plus other characters new to the tale. "We've taken loads of liberties, as usual," says Milarch. R. MacKenzie Lewis, who composed the music for last year's panto, has this year mixed in a little Tchaikovsky and added original songs, including "Tick Tock" and "Kick Butt."

British panto always has a community aspect, with every show incorporating guest cameo appearances by prominent and less familiar members of the local citizenry. Theatre Nova's pantos continue that tradition, with magicians, musicians, and local children's choirs doing short bits and interacting with the actors. One night, even mayor Chris Taylor and his wife, actress Eva Rosenwald, dropped in and read aloud their favorite Christmas book.

Sweetest of all, the Panto Dame tosses candy to girls and boys—of every age—in each show. Theatre Nova presents *Sugar Plum Panto* from November 26 through December 23.

—Sandor Slomovits

sembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone, and snacks. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 545–0541 (10 a.m.), 994–5908 (1 p.m.).*

Gift-Fest: Ann Arbor Artists' Collective. 18th annual holiday show and sale of original works in ceramics, glass, fiber, jewelry, paper, basketry, and more. Refreshments & a raffle of artist-made ornaments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), Saline. Free admission. 272–2901.*

Artists' Market: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Local artists and crafters show and sell works in various media. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free admission; metered parking. 647–7600.*

★"The Future of Judaism in America: A Discussion with Rabbi Sharon Brous": Beth Israel Congregation. Discussion led by this L.A.-based rabbi, a dynamic speaker who is known as one of the most influential rabbis in the U.S. Followed by lunch and small-group discussions. Moderator is U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies director Jeffrey Veidlinger. *10:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Beth Israel, 2000 Washtenaw. Free ($12 for lunch). Reservations required. 665–9897.*

★"Sundays with Gelek Rimpoche": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Sun.* Talk by Gelek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. *11 a.m.–noon, Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994–3387.*

★"Evolution and Wonder": First United Methodist Church Conversations About Science and Religion. Congregation member Deb Nicholas leads a discussion of this chapter of Krista Tippet's *Einstein's God: Conversations about Science and the Human Spirit. 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m., FUMC Calkins Hall, 120 S. State. Free. 662–4536.*

★H.A.C. Ultimate. *Every Sun.* All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot. Free. hac-ultimatelist@googlegroups.com, 846–9418.*

★Critter House Open Hours: Leslie Science & Nature Center. *Every Sun.* All invited to watch frogs, turtles, snakes, rabbits, and more as they hop, crawl, and slither in their homes. LSNC animals include both species native to the region and exotic animals that have been donated. *Noon–3 p.m. Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 997–1553.*

"Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of a mid 19th-century Christmas, with period decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and live holiday music. Also, a chance to make period holiday crafts to take home. Handmade-crafts from local crafters for sale. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds. *Noon–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $2 (family, $5; seniors & kids, $1; children under 3, free). 794–7120.*

★"Police: Subject Control, Accountability, and Potential for Progressive Reform": Ann Arbor Friends Meeting. All invited to discuss the current state of police-community relations with Washtenaw County sheriff **Jerry Clayton.** *12:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1414 Hill. Free. 761–7435.*

★"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. Music Together teacher Dianne Dudley leads infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) in a program of music and dancing. *1–1:40 p.m., AADL Westgate Branch, Westgate shopping center, 2503 Jackson. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Engaging with Art": UMMA. Docent-led tour on today's theme, **"It Wasn't Art at the Start."** *1–2 p.m., UMMA, meet at the Museum Store, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★"Drawing for Youth": Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Sun. through Dec, 11.* Ann Arbor Art Center artists host a different directed drawing activity each week for kids in grades 1–5. *Dec. 4:* **"Matisse Collage."** *Dec. 11:* **"Recycled Book Collage."** *1–2 p.m., AADL Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Syrian Cultural Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to enjoy Syrian food, music, and craft activities in support of Syrian and other recently resettled refugees in Southeast Michigan. Cosponsored by the Syrian American Rescue Network and Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. *1–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. *1–4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678–7549, 663–0262.*

"Mr. Magnolia": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. See 2 Friday. 1 & 3:30 p.m.

U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium. *Every Sat. & Sun. (except Dec. 3, 24, 25, & 31) and Dec. 27–30.* Various audiovisual planetarium shows. ***The Sky Tonight*** (11:30 a.m. Sat., 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun., and 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 27–30) is an exploration of the current night sky. ***Did an Asteroid Really Kill the Dinosaurs?*** (Sat. 2:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual show examining the theory that 66 million years ago a 6-mile-wide rock from space slammed into Earth, wiping out 75% of all living species, including the dinosaurs. ***Seasons of Light*** (12:30 p.m. Sat. & Dec. 27–30, 2:30 p.m. Sun.) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. *Various times, U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $5. 764–0478.*

★"Researching Your Home's History": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County. Talk by local real estate agent and home restoration expert Patrick McCauley. Followed by **"My First Proof Argument. Did I Prove My Case?"** a talk by club librarian Barbara Snow on her case study of the Genealogical Proof Method, a way to prove a fact (e.g., parentage) using indirect evidence when there is no direct document available. *1:30–3 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

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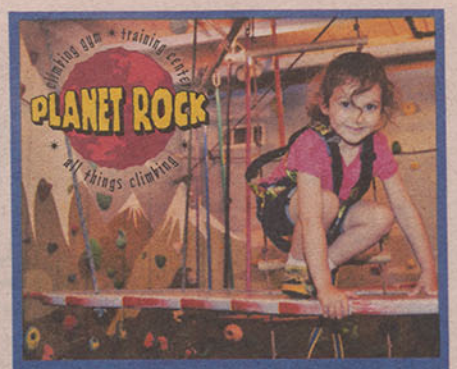

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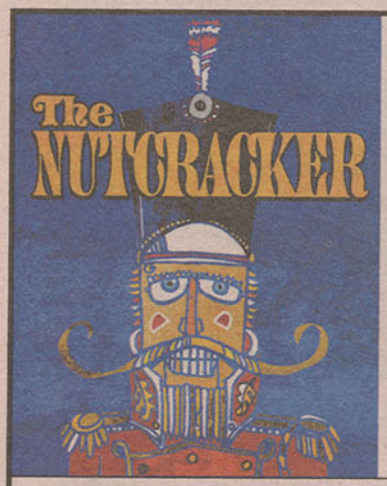

TWO SHOWS

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603 E. LIBERTY ST. ANN ARBOR, MI 48104
CURTAIN AT 7:00
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TICKETMASTER.COM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016
BRIGHTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
7878 BRIGHTON ROAD BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN
CURTAIN AT 2:00 & 6:30
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★**"Exploring Watkins Lake Preserve": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Hike led by WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner. *2–4:30 p.m., park at Watkins Lake State Park, Arnold Rd. (north off Horning, off Herman Rd., 2 miles west of Manchester). Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★**"Kerry Tales: Light a Candle with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769–3115.*

★**"Japanese Prints of Kabuki Theater": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of prints from the UMMA collection. *2–3 p.m., UMMA, meet at the Museum Store, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**"Less Than Perfect": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** Curator-led tour of the current exhibit of imperfect objects from ancient Japan, Egypt, China, Thailand, Korea, India, and Greece and contemporary art inspired by them. *2–3 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 764–9304.*

★**"Zen & the Art of Coloring": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults invited to see if they can attain a meditative state of mind by coloring pages from an assortment of coloring books, including Joanna Basford's popular *Secret Garden, Enchanted Forest,* and *Lost Ocean.* Supplies provided. Refreshments. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Computer Skills": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Sun. through Dec. 11.* GameStart staff present hands-on introductions to various computer skills. For kids in grades 3–8. *Dec. 4:* **"Choose Your Own Adventure Website."** Learn how to make your own website in the style of a Choose Your Own Adventure Book. *Dec. 11:* **"Minecraft CodeMage."** Learn to engage in a Harry Potter–style wizard duel armed only with the code you've programmed yourself. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"NaNoWriMo: I Wrote a Novel … Now What?": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local fiction writer **Leslie "Elle" Wright,** best known for her Edge of Scandal romance novels, offers tips on revising your written work and how to get published. Q&A. Signing. In conjunction with the end of National Novel Writing Month, a nonprofit promotion challenging teens and adults to write a 50,000-word novel by the end of November. *2–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

Ann Arbor TubaChristmas. All invited to bring an instrument and a music stand (with clothespins) to join around 40 players in this annual outdoor performance, now in its 19th year, of holiday carols on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of many outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of TubaChristmas founder Harvey Phillips. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium (1226 Murfin, North Campus) begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books ($16) & TubaChristmas hats ($15) available. Bring a lunch. Hats, gloves, and sunglasses recommended. *2–3 p.m., Farmers Market. $8. Free to spectators. 395–9544.*

"138th Annual Handel's Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 3 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Randazzo Dance Company. See 3 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. See 3 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": EMU Theatre Department. See 2 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Drawing for Adults": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Sun. through Dec. 11.* Ann Arbor Art Center artists host a directed drawing activity for adults, exploring different tasks, techniques, and mediums each week. *Dec. 4:* **"Found Patterns."** *Dec. 11:* **"Master Studies with Pastels,"** *3–5 p.m., AADL 4th floor meeting rm. (Dec. 4) & Secret Lab (Dec. 11), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301. 327–8301.*

"Dronedog Episode 2: Election Day": Dreamland Theater. *Every Sun., Nov. 6–Dec. 18.* Naia Venturi directs the popular Dreamland Puppet Troupe in troupe member Ryan Hughes' new marionette show, the 2nd episode of a dystopian sci-fi serial set in a future where corporations run the world, all socialization occurs in the cloud, and everything in the physical world requires a Terms of Service agreement. *3 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. $7 at the door only. 657–2337.*

★**"Sunday Afternoon with Young Adult Debut Authors": Nicola's Books.** Michigan writers **Kristin Bartley Lenz, Heather Smith Meloche, Darcy Woods,** and **Erica Chapman** discuss their new books. Bartley Lenz's *The Art of Holding On and Letting Go* is about a competitive climber whose lived a nomadic lifestyle with her mountaineering parents. After surviving a tragedy on an Ecuadoran mountaintop, she goes to live with her grandparents in suburban Detroit. Smith Meloche's *Ripple* is about a couple of self-destructive teens who discover the best in themselves as they gravitate toward each other. Woods's *Summer of Supernovas* is about a zodiac-obsessed teen who struggles to find the guy of her dreams. Chapman's *Teach Me to Forget* is about a teen whose suicide attempt is intercepted by a security guard who also happens to be a boy in one of her classes. *3 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 p.m.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever": Saline Area Players. See 1 Thursday. 3 p.m.

"A New World Holiday": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in Dvorak's *New World Symphony,* along with some holiday favorites. *3:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $12 (seniors age 65 & older, students with ID, & kids under age 12, $6; family, $30) in advance at ypsilantisymphony.org and at the door. 507–1451.*

★**"Family Christmas Carol Sing": Kempf House Museum.** All invited for caroling around Kempf House's 1877 Steinway grand piano (see My Town, p. 27), with accompanist Sue Dempsey. Songsheets & handbells provided. Holiday cookies & juice. *4–5 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994–4898.*

30th Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. The AAYC descant and concert choirs of talented young local singers ages 9–16 perform works TBA. *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $5) at the door only. 996–4404.*

★**U-M Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Joseph Gramley directs percussion students in an eclectic program, including Per Andreasson's *Tin Play,* U-M music grad student Andrew Grossman's new arrangement of Steve Reich's *New York Counterpoint* in honor of Reich's 80th birthday, and the Midwest premiere of Chris Kapica's *Bass Quest IX* with soloist **Caelin Amin.** *4 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Michigan Youth Ensembles: U-M School of Music.** The **Youth Euphonium & Tuba Ensemble** performs works TBA. *4 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

Beer & Board Games: Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Dec. 4 & 18.* All invited to play board games. Some games provided (or you can bring your own, if you wish). *4–7 p.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Free admission (buy your own beer). info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

39th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 2 Friday. 4 p.m.

"19th Annual Evening of Dinner & Jazz": African American Cultural & Historical Museum Fundraiser. Local bassist **Ron Brooks** leads George Davidson, Tad Weed, Vincent Bowen, and Rayse Biggs in a jazz program featuring guest vocalist **Betty Joplin,** a silky-voiced jazz singer from Lansing with a vocal style somewhere between Aretha Franklin and Natalie Cole and a repertoire that blends Sarah Vaughan and Nancy Wilson. Buffet dinner. Cash bar. *5–8 p.m., Polo Fields Golf and Country Club, 2955 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets $50 in advance by phone or email. aachmuseum@gmail.com, 971–7819.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris.** *Every Sun., except Dec. 25.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish *moresca.* Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House, 1580 Dhu Varren. Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm. 717–1569.*

★**"The Arcade: Improv Jam": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** *Dec. 4 & 18.* All invited to play short-form improv games. No experience necessary. Spectators welcome. *7 p.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Free (pay-what-*

a cappella

ANDY STAPLES

The King's Singers

The art of listening

Baritone Christopher Gabbitas, senior member of the King's Singers, says that they are each deeply immersed in the art of listening: "It's a good lesson for everyone to learn, for how much better would the world be if we all listened more?" To be successful in any chamber ensemble, he continues, egos must be left offstage. "We sing for each other; we think vertically within a score, and we learn to work together in a more positive way in order to achieve a group sound that is far greater than anything we would ever produce as six individual soloists. That is our raison d'être and is one of the most satisfying experiences it's possible to have."

Originally, "a cappella" denoted sacred music performed in a chapel by unaccompanied voices. As centuries passed, delineations between sacred and secular became less distinct. The King's Singers, formed in the 1960s as the Choral Scholars of King's College, Cambridge, have since evolved into an internationally popular a cappella unit without boundaries.

When they bring their Christmas Songbook show to Hill Auditorium on December 10, the Singers will demonstrate their mastery of everything from medieval motets to mainstream pop.

The motet will be a carol scored in the sixteenth century by Orlande de Lassus. They'll also sing "There Is No Rose of Such Virtue," an early exercise in Christian mysticism in which the womb is described as sacred space where heaven and earth are conjoined. That text has been set or performed by a range of musicians nearly as diverse as the King's Singers' repertoire—from Benjamin Britten to Chanticleer and Sting.

Also on the early, traditional part of the program are Tchaikovsky's "Crown of Roses," Gustav Holst's setting of Christina Rossetti's "In the Bleak Midwinter," and "Shchedryk," known in English as "Carol of the Bells." This instantly recognizable melody was written in 1904 by Mykola Leontovych, a Ukrainian composer, educator, and chorus master later assassinated by the Soviets. And they will sing contemporary Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's "Mother of God and Virgin" ("Bogoroditsye Dveyo")—in Church Slavonic. Interspersed among the melodies will be readings from Rossetti, Sir John Betjeman, and zthe WWI "Diary of an Unknown Soldier."

After intermission, the King's Singers will shift gears with conventional Christmas tunes that everyone knows backwards and forwards, like "Winter Wonderland," Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," and Irving Berlin's "White Christmas." A reading of Ogden Nash's cleverly rhymed cautionary poem "The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus" will lead into "The Little Boy That Santa Claus Forgot," a song popularized during WWII by English vocalist Vera Lynn; her recording was later used in the opening sequence of Pink Floyd's movie *The Wall*.

While some listeners prefer the King's Singers' soaring spiritual harmonies and highly refined handling of medieval, Renaissance, classical, and modern chamber repertoire, the group's dynamic versatility is admirable and at times dazzling. Closing their concert with sugar-coated holiday pop is sure to provide their audience with what it wants—and perhaps needs.

—arwulf arwulf

you-can for spectators). info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484

"Ann Arbor Community Sing": Ann Arbor Senior Center. All invited to join this monthly gathering to sing songs from the various branches of American folk music. *7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5. 794–6250.*

Ann Arbor Poetry. Readings by **Siaara Freeman,** a poet from Cleveland whose poems explore the resilient spirit of people struggling with the realities of inner-city living, and **Scott Beal,** a Pushcart Prize–winning local poet whose recently published debut collection *Wait 'Til You Have Real Problems* deploys familiar characters from Rapunzel to Perseus and whimsically surreal tall tales to explore the varied and violent forces that shape human identities. The program begins with a poetry open mike. *7–9 p.m. (sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. $5 suggested donation. facebook.com/AnnArborPoetry*

"King Lear": RSC Live in HD (University Musical Society). Broadcast of the Royal Shakespeare Company production of Shakespeare's harrowing tragedy, the archetypally resonant story of a king who forces his three daughters to vie for his favor by proclaiming their love for him. While the two oldest daughters are swift with insincere flattery, the youngest and most devoted refuses to play this game. Her father disinherits her in a rage, realizing his folly only when the older daughters take over the kingdom and cast him out. It's one of Western literature's most compelling studies of human arrogance, blind pride, and filial relationships. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $22 (Michigan Theater members & UMS donors & subscribers, $18) in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

Holiday Concert: Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. This polished semiprofessional local ensemble performs works honoring sacred holiday celebrations around the world. *7 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 420 W. Liberty. Donation. 996–8867.*

Enjoy special exhibitions, music, and engaging activities at UMMA's Fridays After 5!

Members of the **University of Michigan Men's Glee Club** return for another holiday performance on December 9!

Park in the Maynard Structure (between Liberty and William) and receive free, validated parking. **The Museum is always free.**

UPCOMING DATES FOR UMMA FRIDAYS AFTER 5 INCLUDE:

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★**"Theokotos: Mary the God Bearer": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Music for Meditation.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff and Church of the Resurrection (Lansing) music director David Sattelman direct their combined choirs in a program of medieval and Renaissance works dedicated to Mary, including music by Palestrina, Dufay Mouton and des Prez. *7:15–8 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

★**Violin Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Students of Danielle Belen perform works for solo violin and works for violin and piano. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. *Dec. 4, 11 & 18.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m. Michigan Union Ballroom (Dec. 4 & 11) & Michigan League Ballroom (Dec. 18). $5 ($10 includes lessons). 763–6984.*

5 MONDAY

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** *Every Mon., Sept. 12–Dec. 12.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors ($125 per semester dues for those who join). 665–9271.*

★**"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Mon.* Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Play days are also offered at the Malletts Creek (Tues. 10–11 a.m. & Thurs. 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Wed. 11 a.m.–noon), Westgate (Thurs. 2–3 p.m.), and Traverwood (Fri. 10:30–11 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Writing Group: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** *Every Mon.* All seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. *1–3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Holiday Light Earrings": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to make a pair of luminous holiday earrings using beads. Supplies provided. *7–8 p.m., AADL Westgate Branch, Westgate shopping center, 2503 Jackson. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Sewing Lab": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Dec. 5 & 14.* All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to get basic sewing help with their unfinished projects or learn how to use the AADL sewing machines. Basic sewing instruction available. All welcome to bring their own sewing machine. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Neutral Zone Open Mike Night: Literati Bookstore.** Poets, storytellers, and short story writers age 19 & under invited to read their work. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Dec. 5, 12, & 19.* Jigs, reels, and strathspeys. Usually with live music. All dances taught; beginners welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the Barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $5. 395–7782, 769–1052, 426–0241.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by viol teacher and early music specialist Janet Cannon. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($35 annual dues for those who join). 274–9463.*

★**"Dreaming in Color": U-M Concert Band.** Courtney Snyder and graduate student conductors Thomas Gamboa and J. Nick Smith direct the band in Gounod's *Petite Symphonie,* Mays's *Dreamcatcher,* Sanford's *16 Colours: In Memoriam James K. Randall,* Bates's *Sea Blue Circuitry,* Sousa's "Who's Who in Navy Blue," and King's *Barnum and Bailey's Favorites. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Mon.* Local high school English teacher Barry Aherne throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Come with a team (up to 6 people) or join one. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

West Coast Swing Party: Footnotes Ballroom Company. *Dec. 5 & 19.* Dancing to recorded music. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a lesson ($10). *9–10:30 p.m., 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $5 (free with lesson). 926–0107.*

6 TUESDAY

Coffee Break: Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. *Every Tues. (when Ann Arbor Public Schools are in session), Sept. 13–Apr. 25.* All women invited to study the Bible with other American and international women in small, informal groups. Also, Bible stories and fun activities for preschoolers, and child care provided for babies. *9:30–11:15 a.m. & 1:15–2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. $25 for the year. 665–0105.*

★**Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Tues. & Wed.* Stories and songs for kids ages 2–5 (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered at the Traverwood (Tues. 11–11:30 a.m.; Wed. 6–6:30 p.m.; & Thurs. 10–10:30 a.m.), Malletts Creek (Wed. 10–10:30 a.m.), Pittsfield (Thurs. 7–7:30 p.m. & Fri. 10–10:30 a.m.), and Westgate (Mon. 11–11:30 a.m., Wed. 1–1:30 p.m., & Fri. 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 11–11:30 a.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues.* All ages invited to play this popular word game. Lunch available for $5.50 (age 60 & over, $3) at 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.; reservations required. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★**Adults Tuesday: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tues.* Activities begin at 11 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($4), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar. Also, at 1 p.m., **mah-jongg, quilting,** and other games & activities. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971–0990.*

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** *Every Tues. through Dec. 13.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. *Dec. 6:* University of Pennsylvania global political and international relations professor David Knott discusses **"China's Security Concerns: The Enduring Link Between External and Internal Challenges."** *Dec. 13:* University of California–San Diego political science professor Yiqing Xu discusses **"China's Ideological Spectrum."** *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Strings Showcase: U-M School of Music.** Outstanding string students perform solo and ensemble chamber works. *3 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**"Israel and Diaspora Relations: Past, Present, Future": U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.** Panel discussion on the changing relations between Israel and Diaspora Jews in America and Europe. With University of Toronto Jewish history professor Derek Penslar, University of Birmingham British history professor Gavin Schaffer, and Northeastern University Jewish historical and cultural studies professor Dov Waxman. *4–5:30 p.m., Thayer Bldg. Rm. 2022, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763–9047.*

★**"Queering Families: The Postmodern Partnerships of Cisgender Women and Transgender Men": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** University of South Carolina sociology and women's studies professor Carla Pfeffer discusses her book that draws on interviews with 50 cisgender women whose partners are transgender men. *4:10–5:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764–9537.*

★**"Ann Arbor East Group Run": Running Fit.** *Every Tues.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3–8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. *6:15 p.m., Running Fit, 3010 Washtenaw. Free. 548–6299.*

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** *Every Tues.* All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA at meetup.com/ann-arbor-StitchN-Bitch/. Free. 945–3035.*

★**"Block Printing": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to learn to make linocut prints using linoleum blocks. Supplies provided. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Inclusion Requires Fracturing": U-M Museum Studies Program.** DIA Head of Interpretation Swarupa Anila discusses museum strategies

The Aesthetic Movement in America

Artists of the Photo-Secession

COURTESY UMMA

Forty years ago, I fell in love with my philosophy of art professor. He was in love, too—this tiny old man with his long messy white hair, his lovely crooked back, his deep cackly voice—with exactly the photographers now showing at the U-M Museum of Art. He was probably alive in the early 1900s when artists created the works in this exhibit, *The Aesthetic Movement in America: Artists of the Photo-Secession.*

My prof-crush started when I noticed how gently he caressed the photos in the textbook on his lap (he always lectured seated). Most prominent among his loves were Alfred Steiglitz and Edward Steichen, leaders of the photography-as-art crusade then, and both featured in this show. The third leader, Gertrude Käsebier, wasn't mentioned in our textbook—after all, it was the '70s—but she and quite a few other women were members of the Pictorialists.

"Pictorialism was the first truly international photography movement," the exhibit description says, "and its practitioners … sought to position photography as a legitimate aesthetic art form." They withdrew from the dictates of art at the time by forming what they called the Photo-Secession.

Together, these two forces promoted doing what other visual artists have always done: manipulating the medium. To prove that photographs were art rather than mere reproduction, these photographers used soft focus and different kinds of processing, touching up the photos with drawing and playing with light and materials to achieve painterly effects.

My favorite in the show is Käsebier's photo of the sculptor Auguste Rodin, known for *The Kiss, The Thinker,* and his ruinous relationship with his apprentice Camille Claudel. Käsebier's *Portrait of Rodin* portrays the then aged artist from the side in a room draped with what looks like walls of cloth—perhaps canvas falling in folds. His right hand, the blackest area of this light photo, barely reaches out, and charcoal-like marks lengthen and enhance its shadow. The gentleness, the pose, and the subject evoke a sense of awe. My professor would have spent three days on this one.

Rodin is again featured—sort of—in three remarkable photos Steichen made of his statue of the writer Honoré de Balzac. These nighttime photos of the much-reviled sculpture were experiments, taking two nights, more than an hour of exposure each, and months of trying different plates and processing. Dark and haunting, the hulking shape is highlighted by the shifting moonlight. (Rodin loved them. "It is Christ walking in the wilderness," he told Steichen. "Your photographs will make the world understand my *Balzac.*")

Speaking of dark, most of the works are. Many seem grayish compared to the kind of photography we're used to. They can seem dull from a distance, yet up close they are anything but. They are luscious, surprising, and historically avant-garde, worthy of my professor's caresses from heaven.

You can caress them—with your eyes only—until the exhibit closes March 5.

—Sally Wright Day

of representation and interpretation that support the cultural and racial diversity of the populations they serve. *6:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 936–6678.*

★"Citizen Architect": U-M Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning/National Organization of Minority Architects. Screening of Sam Wainwright Douglas's 2010 documentary about southern architect Samuel Mockbee, co-founder of the Auburn University Rural Studio program that was created to expose architecture students to extreme poverty in their own backyard. *6:30 p.m., Art + Architecture Bldg., 2000 Bonisteel. Free. 764–1300.*

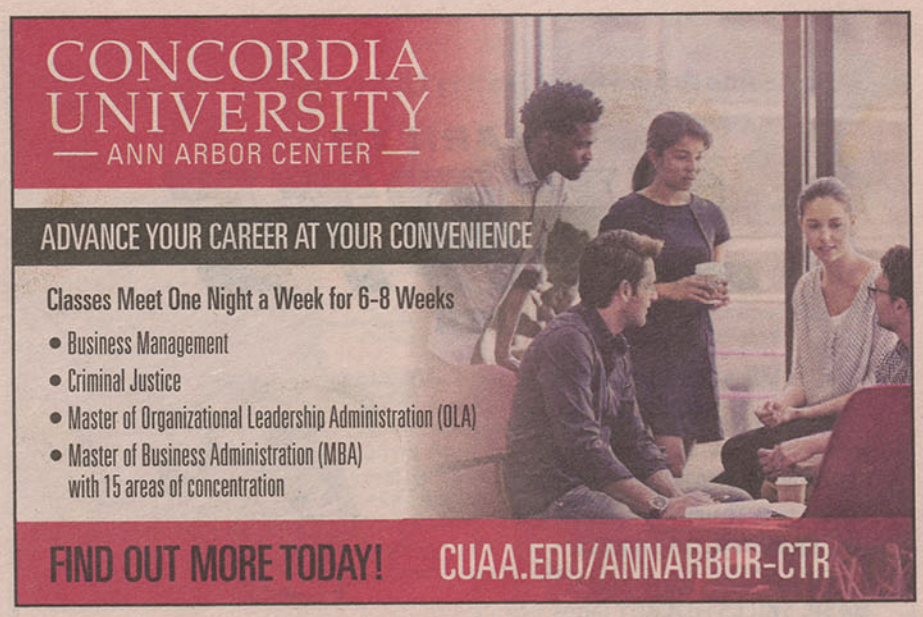
"Oysters and Bubbles": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young is joined by L. Mawby (Suttons Bay, MI) winery winemaker Larry Mawby to host a dinner featuring Mawby's renowned sparkling wines—made with grapes grown at the same latitude as Champagne, France—with an array of oyster dishes featuring the celebrated oysters with the clean, mineral flavor from Apalachicola Bay on the Florida Gulf Coast. *7–9:30 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $95 includes wine pairings. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

★"Trivia Tuesday": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to come with a team of 4 players to compete in a trivia contest. Prizes. *7–8 p.m., AADL Westgate Branch Sweetwaters, Westgate shopping center, 2503 Jackson. Free. 327–8301.*

English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Dec. 6, 13, & 20.* Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 7 p.m. *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). $8 (students, $4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665–7704.*

★Feminist Book Club: Literati Bookstore. All invited to discuss ***The Mothers,*** U-M grad Brit Bennett's debut novel set within a contemporary black community in Southern California. A 17-year-old, reeling from her mother's recent suicide, takes up with the local pastor's son, a 21-year-old former football star. The pregnancy that results from their romance—and the subsequent cover-up—have an impact on their lives far into adulthood. *7–8:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

★Chamber Music Michigan: Ann Arbor District Library. Members of this local chamber music ensemble perform Mozart's String Quartet no. 19 in C major and von Weber's Quintet for Clarinet and Strings. With clarinetist Joshua Anderson, violinists Rita Wang and Lijia Phang, cel-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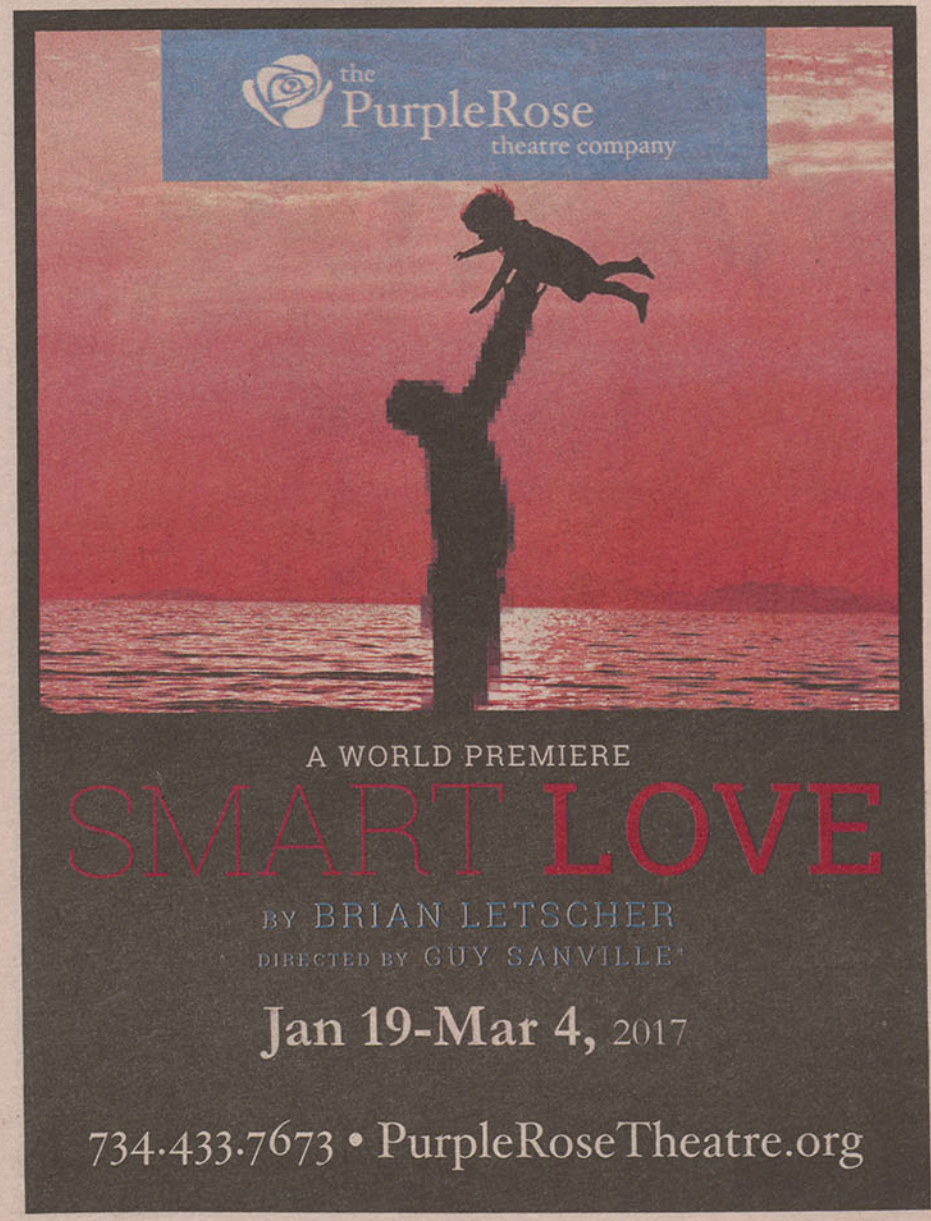

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list Richard Narroway, and violist Zoie Hightower. *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines.** *Every Tues.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 70-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. *7–9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($26 monthly dues for those who join). 612–7580.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Tues.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance: 796–7467.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their recent digital images and prints, including those on the club's current topic, **"Swamps/Wetlands."** *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School media center, 1655 Newport. Free. 327–4781.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** *All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of* ***Apenas Marta,*** Lorea Canales' novel, set in contemporary Mexico City, about a young woman navigating new emotional and financial terrain in the wake of her mother's death. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"What Does the Will of Waldorf Have to Do with the Walls of Walmart?": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** Architect Robert Black, who designed the local Steiner High School and Detroit Community High School, contrasts the spirit of anthroposophy as manifested in Waldorf education and the spirit of global consumerism embodied in Walmart. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 276–5294.*

The Moth Storyslam: Michigan Radio. *Dec. 6 & 20.* Monthly open mike storytelling competition sponsored by the Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Each month 10 storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3–5 minute story on the monthly theme. Dec. themes: **"Food"** (Dec. 6) & **"Give and Take"** (Dec. 20). The 3 teams of judges are recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. Space limited, so it's smart to arrive early. *7:30–9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6 p.m.), The Circus, 210 S. First. $8. 764–5118.*

"Opening Time and Art: Early Music Concert." The local duo of viola da gambist **Janet Cannon** and lute-harpsichordist **Martha Folts** present a recital highlighted by a rarely performed sonata from the 17th-century Dutch composer Johannes Schenck's *Tyd en Konst-Oeffeningen (The Opening of Time and Art)* and one of Telemann's 12 recently discovered Fantasias for solo viol. Also, works by Couperin, Buxtehude, and J. S. Bach. Folts' new lute-harpsichord, a re-creation of one from the high Baroque, is strung with gut strings and features a set of sympathetic strings, giving it a unique resonance that makes a perfect combination with the bass viol. *7:30 p.m., University Lutheran Chapel, 1511 Washtenaw. $20 suggested donation. jtcancan@gmail.com, 747–2381.*

★**String Quartets Final Term Recital: U-M School of Music.** *Dec. 6 & 8.* String students perform works TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"The Nutcracker: A Jazz Suite": Saline Big Band and Lighthouse Dance Company. *Dec. 6 & 7.* Lighthouse Dance Company (Luna Pier, MI) artistic director Delle Clair directs her troupe in her original choreography, a mix of traditional ballet with elements of modern dance, for Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's 1960 jazz adaptation of Tchaikovsky's ballet. The score is performed live by the Saline Big Band, directed by Leer Sobie. *8 p.m., The Yellow Barn, 410 W. Huron. Tickets $15 in advance at www.artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events/10360, $20 at the door. 707–7498.*

★**Opera on Tap.** Local opera singers perform arias and art songs that address this month's theme, **"(Not So) Silent Night."** *8:30–10 p.m. (seating begins at 6:30 p.m.), Sidetrack Bar & Grill, 56 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free, but donations accepted (buy your own food). Reservations required (call between 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.). 483–5230.*

7 WEDNESDAY

★**Brown Bag Organ Recital: U-M School of Music.** Joseph Gascho directs the U-M Baroque Chamber Ensembles in choral and keyboard works by William Byrd. Bring a bag lunch, if you wish; food available at the Crossroads Café. *12:15 p.m., U-M School of Public Health Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** *Every Wed.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabble Club.** *Every Wed.* Word freaks of all abilities invited to drop in to play this popular word game, using the 5th edition Scrabble dictionary. Bring your own set, if you like. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing Co., 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084, 277–7748.*

★**"Traces and Fragments: The Life of a Chokwe Mask": UMMA.** African art curator Laura De Becker discusses the current exhibit that traces the provenance of a mask that was collected in 1905 in Angola by German explorer Leo Frobenius. *5:30–7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**"Movie Freak: My Life Watching Movies": U-M Authors Forum.** BBC.com film critic **Owen Gleiberman,** the controversial founding movie writer for *Entertainment Weekly,* reads from his recently published memoir and discusses it with U-M comparative literature professor Daniel Herwitz. Q&A. *5:30–7 p.m., 100 U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 764–3166.*

★**"Ann Arbor West Group Run": Running Fit.** *Every Wed.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3–8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. *6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 5700 Jackson. Free. 929–9022.*

★**Kerrytown Crafters.** *Every Wed.* All crocheters, knitters, cross stitchers, hand quilters, and other crafters invited to work on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. *6:30–8:30 p.m. or so, Sweetwaters in Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters. 926–8863.*

"Ari's Top Picks of 2016": Zingerman's Delicatessen. *Dec. 7, 14, & 21.* Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of his favorite Zingerman's products. An extremely popular annual event, which usually sells out. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Zingerman's Events on 4th, Fourth Ave. just south of Kingsley. $45 in advance and (if available) at the door. 663–3400.*

"Belgian & Sours": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about more than 2 dozen Belgian & sour beers, from rich trappists, traditional sour lambics, and Flemish browns to aged and high gravity ales to crazy concoctions made with fruits and spice to an assortment of funky, tart, and tangy sours. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. Admission includes unlimited beer sampling and an appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $35 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline east of Maple. (Park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) $6 per person. 623–8050.*

★**"Cork Trivet-Making": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local crafter Dawn Henry shows adults and kids in grade 6 & up how to make a trivet using wine corks. Corks provided, or bring your own. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate Branch, Westgate shopping center, 2503 Jackson. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Grief 101: What to Expect When Grieving": Ann Arbor District Library/Arbor Hospice Grief Support Services.** Talk by an Arbor Hospice representative. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Iconic Restaurants of Ann Arbor": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local historians Jon Milan and Gail Offen discuss their new book. Signing. Hosted by 107.1-FM morning host Martin Bandyke. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Building Matters: Heat Is Neat": Ann Arbor District Library.** Ann Arborite Jessica Letaw, an architecture buff who writes the blog Architectstasy, discusses how Ann Arbor has historically heated its buildings and the ways that has, at times literally, shaped our city. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to read and discuss their poetry or short stories. Bring about 6 copies of your work to share. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**Jason Corey & Stephen Rush: Literati Bookstore.** Performances by these two U-M music professors in celebration of their recently published books, Corey's *Audio Production and Critical Listening: Technical Ear Training* and Rush's *Free Jazz, Harmolodics, and Ornette Coleman. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

Dick Siegel: On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase. This veteran local singer-songwriter is an immensely gifted and versatile composer whose songs offer all sorts of immediate musical and lyrical pleasures, both serious and comic, as well as a resonant staying power. His live repertoire features material from his nationally acclaimed 2002 CD *A Little Pain Never Hurts,* early hits like "Angelo's" and "When the Sumac Is on Fire"—one of the best songs about Michigan ever written—and new songs. Opening act is **Joe Shields,** a Grand Rapids cartoonist-turned-Americana singer-songwriter who was one of 6 winners at the prestigious 2016 Kerrville (TX) New Folk competition. *7–9 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson, Chelsea. $15 suggested donation. Info: call Annie Capps at 330–5226.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★**History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss Maureen Corrigan's ***So We Read On: How the Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures.*** *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** *Every Wed.* All invited to join a discussion of *The Karma of Vocation,* also known as *The Philosophy of Freedom,* Rudolf Steiner's cycle of ten 1916 lectures given in Dornach, Switzerland. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 678–5497.*

★**"Cultivating the Mind with Discipline: Deepening": Karma Thegsum Choling.** Talk by KTC resident lama Nancy Burks. *7:30–9 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner. Free; donations accepted. 678–7549.*

★**"Operation Nightingale": Yankee Air Museum.** U.S. Marine Corps veteran **Mark Reed** discusses his organization that uses field archaeology as a therapeutic tool for disabled vets and their upcoming plans to locate and excavate an 8th Air Force B–17 Flying Fortress crash site in England. *7:30 p.m., YAM, Willow Run Airport (off Ecorse from Beck Road via I-94 exit 190), Ypsilanti. Free. 483–4030.*

★**Winter Orchestra Concert: Pioneer High School.** The PHS Philharmonic, Concert, and Symphony orchestras perform works by Vivaldi, John Ireland, Dvorak, Mussorgsky/Ravel, and others. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. Free. 996–3210.*

★**Campus Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Marcus Elliot directs this jazz ensemble that features students from a wide range of departments across the U-M campus. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** This adventurous ensemble of music majors performs works inspired by written and spoken words, including Mazzoli's *Set That on Fire,* Brantley's *The Royal Revolver,* Lang's *Increase,* Beecher's *The Art of Remembering,* Shaw's *Taxidermy,* and Rzewski's *Coming Together. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"The Nutcracker: A Jazz Suite": Saline Big Band and Lighthouse Dance Company. See 6 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 7, 14, & 21.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wed.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Ryan Halsey hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor. *Dec. 7 & 14.* Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a lesson. *9–11 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. $5 (students, $3; $1 discount for members; free for those who attend the free lesson at 8 p.m.). 945–8428.*

8 THURSDAY

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. *Dec. 8–11.* This award-winning local children's theater company performs Jeff Duncan's musical adaptation of the Dickens' Christmas classic about crabbed old Ebenezer Scrooge and his transformation after visits by 3 spirits on the night before Christmas. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available for blind audience members by prearrangement. Appropriate for kids in grades 3–12. *Note:* The 10 a.m. performances on Dec. 8 & 9 are sold out. *10 a.m. (Dec. 8 & 9), 12:30 p.m. (Dec. 9), & 2 p.m. (Dec. 10 & 11), WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (seniors age 60 & over and kids, $8; lap passes for kids age 2 & under, $3) in advance at wildswantheater.org and at the door. 995–0530.*

"Little Paws Story Time": Huron Valley Humane Society. *Dec. 8 & 22.* Kids ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult, invited for stories, crafts, finger plays, and interaction with adoptable cats. Also, a chance to make a toy or treat for the animals. The Humane Society also sponsors **"Cat Tales Story Time"** (10:30 a.m., Dec. 11) at their new cat café, the Tiny Lions Center (5245 Jackson, ste. A1). *10:30 a.m., 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. $5 per child. 661–3575.*

Ikebana International. An ikebana instructor TBA leads a session of Japanese flower arranging. *1–2:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens rm. 125, 1800 N. Dixboro. $20 materials fee; metered parking. Preregistration required. a2ikebana@gmail.com*

★**"Opera Studio Scenes": U-M School of Music.** U-M music professor Robert Swedberg directs U-M opera undergrad students in dramatic, romantic, and hilarious scenes from operas TBA. *5:30 & 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 2005 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–2538.*

★**Laura Kasischke: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** This acclaimed local poet and novelist, author of several books that have been adapted into films, discusses her work with Zell program director Douglas Trevor. *5:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764–6330.*

★**All School Choir Concert: Greenhills School.** Program TBA. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4004.*

"Jolly Cocktails": Zingerman's Cornman Farms. Zingerman's staff discuss the use of warm winter spices in drinks throughout American history, and holiday drinking traditions in the U.S. and around the world and show how to prepare 3 holiday cocktails: a spiced cider cocktail using apple-infused whiskey, a variation of the classic Regent's Punch, and a chocolate and coffee tipple. Tastings. With appetizers. Recipes available. *7–9:30 p.m. Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. $75. Reservations required. 619–8100.*

★**"Glass Ball Ornaments": Ann Arbor District Library.** Holiday craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. Materials provided. *7–8 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Story Night": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild members host a storytelling program. Audience members are encouraged to bring a 5-minute story to tell. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Open Mike & Share": Bookbound.** Reading by Siena Heights University English professor **Saleem Peeradina,** an anthologized Chelsea-based poet who recently published his 5th poetry collection, *Final Cut.* The program begins with a brief open mike for poets, who are welcome to read their own work or a favorite poem by another writer. *7 p.m., Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369–4345.*

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

Downtown:
120 S. State St. at Huron
Regular Sunday worship at 9:30 & 11:15 am

Green Wood:
1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way
Regular Saturday worship at 5 pm

www.fumc-a2.org
734.662.4536

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 Green Wood, 5:00 pm
A Service of Light & Darkness
We remember we are not alone in our struggles and that God promises to wipe away our tears and offer abundant life.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 Downtown, 9:30 & 11:15am
J.S. Bach Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248
Join us in worship as our choir, soloists, and the Michigan Sinfonietta present this beautiful setting of the Christmas story.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 Downtown, 5:00 pm
Youth Christmas Drama: Bethlehem Inn
This heart-warming journey of hilarious escapades will entertain the whole family. Live nativity follows on our front steps.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
Downtown Christmas Eve Services
5:00 pm Service for young children and their families
7:30 pm Family service featuring children & adult ensembles
11:00 pm Candlelight service with music provided by the Chancel Choir & Instrumental ensemble
Parking available for a fee at Liberty Square Garage
Green Wood Christmas Eve Service
5:00 pm Candlelight Family Service

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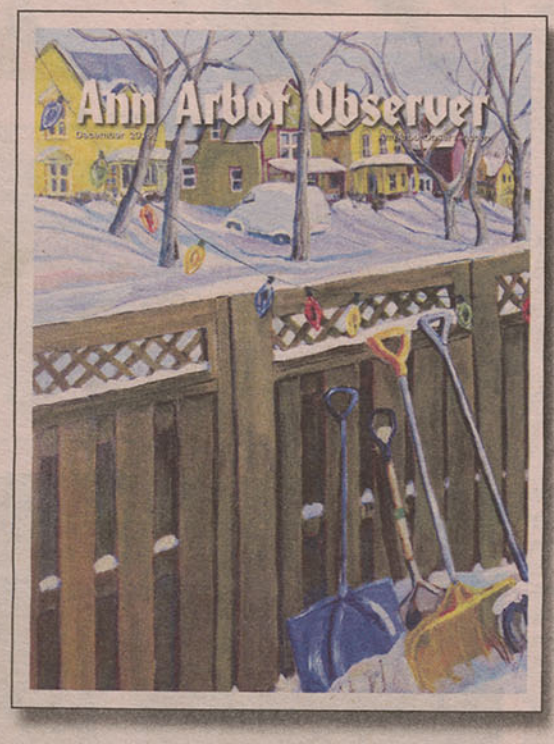

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"Christmas Carol'd": EMU Theatre Department. See 2 Friday. 7 p.m.

★**"We Wish You Christmas": Ypsilanti Community Choir.** Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir in an eclectic program, including "African Noel," "Bidi Bom," "The Sleigh," a jazzy "Silent Night," John Rutter's "I Wish You Christmas," and "In the Bleak Midwinter." Accompanist is Maria Cimarelli. The choir is joined by the brass quintet **Four Old Men and a Babe** in Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." Emcee is WEMU music director Linda Yohn. Pre-concert and intermission music by the local jazz quartet **BDQ.** *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free, but donations accepted. 481–9285.*

"Peter and the Starcatcher": U-M Theatre Department. *Dec. 8–11.* U-M theater professor Gillian Eaton directs U-M drama students in Rick Elice's 2011 adaptation of Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson's popular children's novel that creates a backstory for Peter Pan. It traces the transformation of a sullen, cynical orphan into J.M. Barrie's beloved eternal boy via encounters with pirates, orphans and some transformative substance that comes from fallen stars. The *New York Times* praises the way it "sustains a breathless air of adventure and a cocky confidence in its powers to enchant that elude most family oriented spectacles now on Broadway, including hits like *Wicked* and *Mary Poppins.*" *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $22 & $28 (students, $12) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

★**Trombone Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Students of David Jackson perform solo works by Bach, Basset, Culver, Gröndahl, Koetsier, Sulek, and others. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Concordia Wind and String Ensemble: Concordia University.** William Perrine conducts this student ensemble in the Michigan premiere of Concordia guest composer-in-residence James Syler's *Wu Xing,* with percussionists Chuck Ricotta and Adam Ginsburg, both Concordia faculty members. The program also includes other contemporary works for winds and strings. *8 p.m., Concordia University Kreft Center Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–7389.*

★**Jazz Lab and Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Ellen Rowe directs the Jazz Ensemble and Dennis Wilson directs the Jazz Lab Ensemble in compositions and arrangements by Rowe, Wilson, Bob Brookmeyer, Dominic Bierenga, John Hollenbeck, and others. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

"Within Perception": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Concert. *Dec. 8–10.* An evening solo and group dance works with original choreography by U-M dance majors **Claire Crause, Chloe Gonzales, Paula Modafferi, Kasia Reilly,** and **Soultana Schiavi.** *8 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. (off Observatory). $7 at the door only, beginning at 7 p.m. 763–5460, 763–5461.*

"The Sorcerer": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. *Dec. 8–11.* Lori Gould directs this accomplished local town-and-gown company in Gilbert & Sullivan's early comic operetta about a happily married young couple who decide the world would be better if everyone could know their bliss. The husband enlists a sorcerer to create a love potion that's served up in a communal pot of tea. The inhabitants drink the tea, fall into an enchanted sleep, and awake to fall passionately in love with the first person they lay eyes upon. This results in a lot of uncomfortably comic mismatches, and in order to reverse the situation, the sorcerer must sacrifice himself—an unusual twist for the main comic figure in a G&S operetta. The score is probably best known for the patter song "My Name Is John Wellington Wells," a standard for G&S baritones. *8 p.m. (Dec. 8–10) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 10 & 11), Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 911 North University. Tickets $16–$24 (seniors, $14–$21; students, $8–$15) in advance at umgassthesorcerer.brownpapertickets.com and at the door. umgass@umich.edu*

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Tyler Boeh: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 8–10.* Portland (OR) comic known for his smart, fast-paced, slightly bizarre observational humor about his life as a bus-riding urbanite with friends that are way too into hip-hop, plus the oddball fantasies that propel his search for the perfect "sounding" woman. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved*

galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library, *Downtown Branch* (343 S. Fifth Ave.): *This, too, is Iran* (Dec. 2–Jan. 12 in the Multipurpose Rm.). Fifty photographs of contemporary Iran by U-M art history department photographer (and Observer contributor) Sally Bjork. *Eating the Pig: A Dinner Party in Poetry, Photography and Painting* (Dec. 2–Jan. 12 in the 3rd Floor Exhibit Space). Photographs by Stephen Blos of a 1974 pig roast attended by poets Donald Hall and Jane Kenyon and other literary figures. (Blos was a U-M undergrad at the time.) The exhibit also includes Hall's poem "Eating the Pig," which he wrote after the roast, and sketches by Sarah Innes based on a 2015 meeting she had with Hall. There's also an online component at addl.org. ***Malletts Creek Branch*** (3090 E. Eisenhower): *Visions of Home: Photographs of Michigan* (Dec. 20–Jan. 26). Twenty-five photographs of Michigan—including everything from serene shores and icy waters to the Big Mac and cityscapes—by Michigan photographers Kate Jackman and Jennifer Wooley, known collectively as Fresh Coast Photography. Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun., noon–6 p.m. 327–4555.

EMU University Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *New Fibers* (through Dec. 7). National juried exhibit of contemporary fiber art in a broad range of forms. Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 487–1268.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals), *Main Hospital:* *Symbols in a Dream,* mixed-media assemblage by John Gutoskey; *Natural Healing,* fiber art by members of the Studio Art Quilt Associates of New Mexico; *Native Alaskan Baskets & Photographs from the Gold Rush* (all 3 exhibits run Dec. 19–Mar. 12). ***Taubman Center:*** *Dr. Snowflake Retrospective,* hand-cut paper art by Thomas Clark, a former U-M physician, who began making paper snowflakes in 1984; *Steel Sculpture* by Tim Shoemaker; *Art & Healing,* American Indian textiles and beadwork by Suzanne Cross, a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe (all 3 exhibits run Dec. 19–Mar. 12). ***Cancer Center:*** *Ann Arbor Street Paintings,* oil on panel by Carlye Crisler (Dec. 19–Mar. 12). *Toy Robots Past & Present* (Dec. 19–June 11 in the elevator alcove, level 2). Daily 8 a.m.–8 p.m. (except Cancer Center, Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–5 p.m.). 936–ARTS.

Jewish Community Center Amster Gallery, 2935 Birch Hollow. Photographs by Larry Hauptman (through Dec. 31). Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.–6 p.m. 971–0990.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. *Raptors, Woods, and Critters* (Dec. 1–28). Works by 25 local artists in celebration of the Leslie Science & Nature Center's 30th Anniversary. Reception Dec. 7, 5–7 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m., by appointment, and during evening concerts. 769–2999.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. *Avant Garde: Weaving Fashion and Nature Together* (Nov. 26–Jan. 8). Exhibit that explores plants as raw materials for textiles and as inspiration for designs, colors, and shapes in fashion. With info on the historical and cultural roles of various plants in the conservatory and dresses made from plant material such as moss, succulents, ferns, and tree bark. Daily 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 647–7808.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. *Moving Image: Landscape* (Dec. 3–Mar. 26). Exhibit that explores traditional notions of landscape through four very different works, including Jim Campbell's pixilated *Seal Rock,* Antti Laitinen's 3-channel video *It's My Island,* Joanie Lemercier's computer-generated print *Landforms,* and Rick Silva's *Render Garden,* which explores the digitized landscape through software that endlessly generates new plant combinations. Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 764–0395.

U-M Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning, Liberty Research Annex, 305 W. Liberty. *Triptychs* (through Jan. 6). Exhibit of U-M grad Terry Sargent's concept sketches, Barbara Ratner's renderings, and Jonathan Hillyer's architectural photographs that illustrate their work together on 7 different commissioned buildings. Daily 3–7 p.m. 764–1300.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *WSG 2016 Annual Holiday Show* (Dec. 1–30). Works by WSG artists and 13 visiting artists as well as gift items by 17 invited artists. Reception Dec. 2, 7–9 p.m. Tues. & Wed. noon–6 p.m., Thurs. noon–9 p.m. Fri. & Sat. noon–10 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 761–2287.

seating in advance, $13 (Thurs.) & $16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.

9 FRIDAY

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 8 Thursday. Today's 10 a.m. show is sold out. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★**"Sensation Stations": Ann Arbor District Library.** All toddlers ages 18 months–3 years invited to drop in to engage their senses by scooping, pouring, squeezing, and shaking a variety of materials. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Specimen Backlogs in the Age of Digitization: Strategies for Shedding Light on 'Dark Data' Before They Become Black Holes": U-M Museum Studies Program.** U-M Paleontology Museum collections manager Daniel Miller discusses the museum's plans to organize and digitize its specimens and associated data that are not yet accessible electronically. *Noon, UMMA Multipurpose Rm., 525 S. State. Free. 936–6678.*

★**"Fridays After 5": UMMA.** The museum is open late tonight with activities and live music. *5–8 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

Winter Art Tour. *Dec. 9–11.* All invited to visit at least 4 of 9 local art shows for a chance to win a piece of local art in a raffle. Shows include the **Ann Arbor Art Center's** "Art Off the Wall" show (Dec. 9 & 10, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Dec. 11, noon–5 p.m.), as well as "Art on Adare," DIYpsi, the Tiny Expo, the 10th Annual Holiday Studio Sale, and shows at Clay Works Studio, Front Porch Textiles, and Yourist Studio and Gallery (see individual listings for show times). *Various times & locations. Free admission. winterarttour.org*

Annual Holiday Show & Sale: Yourist Studio Gallery. *Dec. 9–11.* Show and sale of works by local ceramics artists. Tonight is an opening reception with refreshments. *5–8 p.m. (Dec. 9), 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Dec. 10) & 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 11), Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free admission. 662–4914.*

3rd Annual Holiday Sale: Clay Work Studio. Show and sale of handcrafted works by studio members. Tonight is a reception with food, wine, and live classical music. *6–8 p.m. (Dec. 9), 9 a.m.–6 p.m. (Dec. 10), & noon–5 p.m. (Dec. 11), 2763 Plymouth Rd. Free admission. 604–7596.*

★**Geneviève Zubrzycki: Literati Bookstore.** This U-M sociology professor discusses her new book, ***Beheading the Saint: Nationalism, Religion, and Secularism in Quebec.*** Signing. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Readings by U-M creative writing grad students, including New York fiction writer **Bryce Hayes Pope** and Florida poet **Sierra Brown.** *7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615–3710.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. *Dec. 9 & 10.* Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of boys ages 8–18 in its 30th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." The featured works range from the 13th-century "organum triplum" Alleluia by French composer Pérotin to British composer Bob Chilcott's heartwarming "The shepherds sing." Also, Philip Ledger's sparkling setting of the traditional "Sussex Carol," Glenn Rudolph's setting of Thomas Troeger's moving "The Dream Isaiah Saw," and a contemporary King's Singers arrangement of "Stille Nacht." Audience sing-alongs of "Hark! The herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. This popular annual concert usually sells out. *7 p.m. (Fri.), First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Washington, Ypsilanti, & 3 p.m. (Sat.), First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $10; youths 17 & under, $5) in advance at aaboychoir.org/reserve.html and tickets@aaboychoir.com, and at the door. 663–5377.*

★**"Harry Potter Magical Holiday Ball": Barnes & Noble.** All invited to dress as a favorite Harry Potter character for a program of music, dancing, and other Harry Potter–inspired activities. Giveaways. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from ***Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes,*** Tony Kushner's celebrated 2-play series exploring the apocalyptic fears at the heart of contemporary culture, and ***'night, Mother,*** Marsha Norman's controversial 1983 Pulitzer Prize–winning drama about a deeply unhappy woman justifying her planned suicide to her mother. *7 p.m., Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.*

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": EMU Theatre Department. See 2 Friday. 7 p.m.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Wisconsin. *Dec. 9 & 10. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. Ticket price TBA at stubhub.com/michigan-wolverines-hockey-tickets. 764–0247.*

★**"Felt Chain Garlands": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *7:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate Branch, Westgate shopping center, 2503 Jackson. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Dec. 9 & 23.* All invited to join an ongoing discussion of the Anthroposophic Press collection ***Esoteric Development: Selected Lectures and Writings from the Work of Rudolf Steiner.*** Familiarity with Rudolf Steiner's basic ideas is helpful. *7:30–9 p.m., location TBA. Free. 944–4903.*

★**Percussion Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Students of Joseph Gramley and Jonathan Ovalle perform a diverse program of solo and chamber works. Also, grad student Patterson McKinney directs the **iMpact! Youth Percussion Ensemble** in a program. *7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

U-M Angels on Call. This a cappella ensemble performs pop songs by Fall Out Boy, Vulfpeck, Ariana Grande, and others. Proceeds benefit the Detroit nonprofit Alternatives for Girls. *7:30 p.m., 1324 East Hall, 530 Church. $5. angelsoncallum@gmail.com*

U-M Dicks & Janes. This a cappella ensemble features an eclectic repertoire of blues, jazz, rock, and pop tunes. *7:30 p.m., U-M School of Education Bldg. rm. 1202, 610 East University. $8 (students, $5) in advance 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Dec. 5–8 in the Mason Hall front lobby or by using the venmo app (use @dicks-janes and put full name & number of tickets in the payment description); cost TBA at the door. dicksandjanes@umich.edu*

5th Annual Holiday Pops Concert: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra is joined by the men's chorus **Measure for Measure,** and choirs from Pioneer, Huron, and Saline high schools in a program of seasonal music concluding with "Let There Be Peace on Earth." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$52 in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron, ste. 470), at a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.*

Chuck Mitchell: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). A mix of poetry, cabaret songs, whimsical novelty tunes, and lively banter by this veteran singer-guitarist and actor, a Detroit area native who now lives in Iowa. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC*

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Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.

"Within Perception": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Concert. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Sorcerer": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Peter and the Starcatcher": U-M Theatre Department. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Tyler Boeh: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

10 SATURDAY

★Eco-Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. *Dec. 10 & 17.* All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. *Note:* Kids age 15 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 16–18 must submit a permission form. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Dec. 10), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Dec. 17), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking at Matthaei). Preregistration required by phone or email. tgriffit@umich.edu, 647–8528.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *Dec. 10 & 11.* About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. (517) 605–0624.*

8th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show. Popular local radio personality Lucy Ann Lance hosts a live broadcast of her old-fashioned radio variety show with musical performances, stories, local celebrities, and more. The show is broadcast on 1290 WLBY and 1290WLBY.com. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Briarwood mall. Free. 1290WLBY.com, 717–2182.*

"Critters Up Close!": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 10 & 11.* Leslie Science & Nature Center staff show live animals. Also, animal-oriented hands-on activities. This month's featured critters are **hawks & falcons.** *Note:* Saturday's program includes a midday "Animal Naptime" break. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 1–4 p.m. (Sun.), AAHOM Michigan Nature Gallery, 220 E. Ann. $12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

"Winter Greens": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All kids, accompanied by a parent, invited to use evergreens and ribbons to create a bough to take home. *10 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. $10 per child; metered parking. 647–7600.*

Holiday Greens Workshop: Ann Arbor Garden Club. Club members show how to make a holiday wreath or arrangement of holiday greens. Followed by a light brunch. *10 a.m.–noon, U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. $20 brunch and materials fee; metered parking. Reservations recommended. tricialin@hotmail.com, 665–7072.*

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. *Dec. 10 & 11.* With used puzzles and games, along with gift-quality books and books on CD. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 1–4 p.m. (Sun.), AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 302–7774.*

"6th Annual Friends at the Front Porch Holiday Sale." *Dec. 10 & 11.* Michigan artists and crafters show and sell handwoven textiles, jewelry, metal art, fine woodwork, art tiles, and letterpress art. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Front Porch Textile Studio, 1219 Traver. Free admission. 662–7134.*

DIYpsi Holiday Market. *Dec. 10 & 11.* Local artists and crafters show and sell their paintings, jewelry, clothing, glass, soaps, baked goods, and more. *11 a.m.–7 p.m. (Dec. 10) & noon–6 p.m. (Dec. 11), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free admission. diypsi.com, diypsifair@gmail.com*

"Christmas at Rentschler Farm": Saline Area Historical Society. *Dec. 10, 17, & 18.* A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas, with natural decorations. Also, demos of a sock-knitting machine, quilting, and other crafts. Gifts shop & light refreshments. *11 a.m.–3 p.m. (Dec. 10 & 17) & 1–4 p.m. (Dec. 18), Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Donation. salinehistory@frontier.com, 944–0442.*

"West Side Neighborhood Art Hop." *Dec. 10 & 11.* The homes and studios of several west-side artists are open for a show and sale of their art and craft items. Live music at some venues. *11 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.) & noon–4 p.m. (Sun.), starting place with maps at 700 Mt. Vernon, at the end of Eberwhite off W. Liberty. Free admission. Westsidearthop.weebly.com. 417–2987, 757–3717.*

The Tiny Expo: Ann Arbor District Library. Show and sale of holiday gifts by local artists and crafters. Also, all ages invited to drop by the youth story corner to make a **Tiny Expo snowglobe.** *11 a.m.–5:30 p.m., AADL lobby, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 327–4555.*

"Art on Adare." *Dec. 10 & 11.* A holiday show and sale of fine art jewelry by Idelle Hammond-Sass, glass by Annette Baron, and fiber art by Carol Furtado. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., 1510 Kearney at Adare (off Melrose via Tuomy from Washtenaw). Free admission. 741–4441.*

Winter Open Studio & Market: Ypsi Alloy Studios. *Dec. 10 & 11.* Show and sale of fine art and handmade gifts made by studio members. *Noon–7 p.m., Ypsi Alloy Studios, 564 S. Mansfield (south off W. Michigan Ave. just east of Ellsworth), Ypsilanti. Free admission. ypsi.alloy@gmail.com, ypsialloy.com*

10th Annual Holiday Studio Sale. *Dec. 10 & 11.* Show and sale of works by 7 local artists, including book arts by Jean Buescher Bartlett, ceramics by John Leyland, silk and wool wearables and fiber art by Michelle Montour, porcelain works by Kate Tremel, and jewelry by Brittany Campbell, Kristine Bolhuis, and Suzie Tremel. Also, a sale of hand-crafted chocolates by Sweet Gem Confections candy maker Nancy Biehn. *Noon–5 p.m., Tremel residence, 627 Gott St. (off Miller). Free admission. 327–3727.*

"L'Amour de Loin": Fathom Events. Broadcast (Dec. 10) and rebroadcast (Dec. 21) of the Metropolitan Opera's production of Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's highly praised 2000 opera, a medieval romance of idealized love. The score evokes troubadour songs, medieval modal harmony, and fragments of elegiac tunes. Interviews with the cast, crew, and production teams during intermission. *12:55 p.m. (Dec. 10) & 6:30 p.m. (Dec. 21), Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter). Tickets $18 (Quality 16) & $25 (Rave) in advance at fathomevents.com and at the door. 623–7469 (Quality 16) & 973–8424 (Rave).*

Himalayan Festival: The Himalayan Bazaar. *Dec. 10 & 11.* Show and sale of Himalayan crafts, a **"Sherpa Momo Tasting"** of traditional Himalayan foods, Nepali milk tea, Himalayan movies, Reiki healing, **Yeti hugs,** a garage sale, a chance to learn about tours to Nepal in an **"Everest View Travelogue"** presentation (3 p.m. both days), a **Tibetan singing bowl concert** (4 p.m. both days), and more. *1–5 p.m., The Himalayan Lodge, 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free admission. ofglobal@aol.com, 369–3107.*

"Splash Day": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. A family-oriented afternoon of pool games and contests. Prizes. *2–4 p.m., Mack Indoor Pool, 715 Brooks. $5 (youth age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & older, $4). 794–6234.*

★Early Music Ensemble and Chamber Music Concert: U-M School of Music. Students perform Baroque and Renaissance choral and chamber works. *2 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, a perennial national power that has won 3 NCAA national championships in the past 7 years, prepares for the 2017 season with an intrasquad meet. *3 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

Advanced English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Bronwen Gates and Julie Esch lead to music by Judi Morningstar, Brad Battey, and Matt McCoy. For experienced dancers. *3–6 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $12 (members, $10). (248) 288–4737.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 9 Friday. 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw.

"Holiday Hustle": Running Fit. Competitive 5-km run/walk (4:30 p.m.) with awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories, and a 1-mile fun run (4 p.m.). *4 p.m., Monument Park, downtown Dexter. 5-km run: $34 before Dec. 8 & $40 race weekend. Fun Run: $29 before Dec. 8 & $35 race weekend for adults, $19 before Dec. 8 and $25 race weekend for age 17 & under. Preregistration available at runholiday5k.com. 426–1175.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. EMU. The U-M women's gymnastics team, the defending Big Ten champion and a perennial national power, opens its season with an exhibition match. *4 p.m., Crisler Center. Ticket prices TBA. 764–0247.*

The Detroit Lutheran Singers: Zion Lutheran Church Concert Series. Christopher Hall directs this choir, founded in 1966, in sacred music ranging from the old masters to contemporary composers in a variety of styles, including cantatas, spirituals, and anthems. *4 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. $15 (students & seniors, $10; kids age 12 & under, free). 994–4455.*

★"Performance Improvisation Showing": U-M Dance Department. Performances by students in U-M dance professor Amy Chavasse's improvisation class. *5 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. (off Observatory). Free. 763–5460.*

"Parents' Night Out": Leslie Science and Nature Center. Parents invited to leave their kids ages 6–12 for a pizza dinner & carrots and the nature program **"Animal Engineers,"** an exploration of adaptations that help animals hunt, run, jump, and swim, followed by a chance for the kids to apply those ideas to an invention of their own. *5–10 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $30 (members, $25) per child. 997–1533.*

★Bluegrass Gospel Jam Session. Mark and Claudia Aills are joined by other local string musicians for a program of bluegrass and country gospel tunes. *6–8:30 p.m., Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free, but donations accepted for Dexter Senior Center. 878–1078.*

★"Annual Holiday Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan. All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. The program begins with a social hour (bring a healthy snack or dessert to share). Tea is served. *6:30–9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

"The Nutcracker": Academy of Russian Classical Ballet. Faculty and students from this suburban Detroit ballet school perform Tchaikovsky's ballet. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater tickets $45 in advance at all Ticketmaster outlets (ticketmaster.com) and russianclassicalballet.com, and at the door. (248) 982–7882.*

cabaret

KATRYN COLIN

Bolcom and Morris

Chestnuts and evergreens

Like her accompanist, husband, and artistic collaborator William Bolcom, Joan Morris specializes in old-fashioned popular music. On December 16 her extraordinary stage presence will enliven Kerrytown Concert House with an intimate tribute to great American songwriters. While most will be represented by only one number, the duo plans to perform two by Johnny Mercer, who had a knack for fitting American lyrics to European ballads. The melody for "Autumn Leaves" was composed by the Hungarian Joseph Kosma with words by French surrealist poet Jacques Prévert. Mercer rewrote only part of the famous chorus—during which Bolcom promises not to replicate pop pianist Roger Williams' deciduous arpeggios. "When the World Was Young," introduced in 1950 by Edith Piaf as "Le Chevalier de Paris," was written by Philippe Gérard with lyrics by Angèle Vannier. Mercer's English version describes a wintry nostalgia for "last July, when the world was young."

Irving Berlin's "Falling Out of Love Can Be Fun" and the Rodgers and Hart ballad "I Didn't Know What Time It Was" are also being considered for inclusion. "Larry Hart is my guy," says Morris. "I adore his lyrics, their ability to be heart-wrenching and funny at turns, sometimes in the same song." Nestled among the chestnuts and evergreens are rarely performed tunes of earlier vintage, including an all-but-forgotten air by legendary bandleader James Reese Europe. A towering figure in the African American musical landscape during the 1910s, he and his Society Orchestra backed exhibition ballroom dancers Vernon and Irene Castle when they premiered the fox-trot in 1916. During WWI, Europe and his all-black 369th Infantry Hellfighters Band bolstered troop morale by performing perilously close to the front lines. Tragically, he was murdered by a deranged percussionist in 1919. Also on the program is a composition by Europe's disciple, ragtime pianist Eubie Blake.

Over the past forty years Morris has been writing a book, tentatively titled *Singing the Words.* She is working on a chapter devoted to poet Arnold Weinstein, who wrote libretti for Bolcom's operas and collaborated with him on a set of twenty-four cabaret songs, mostly inspired by Morris. "Joan's influence is all over the songs in all sorts of ways," says Bolcom. "Her diction is impeccable because she acts every word in depth." They intend to honor Weinstein with the somber and hauntingly beautiful "Waitin'." Written by Weinstein and Bolcom, it is the last song Morris sang to him before he passed away in 2005.

Having time to refine the program for their soiree at Kerrytown, Morris says, is "a luxury we're not used to. I'm loving it! Memories of old friends, tunes all crowding in, wanting to be heard—as Arnold says in one song, 'Time, get out of my hair!' "

—arwulf arwulf

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. See 3 Saturday. 7 p.m.

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": EMU Theatre Department. See 2 Friday. 7 p.m.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Streetsboro (OH) caller Carol Kopp leads to music by Judi Morningstar and friends. Beginners welcome; all dances taught. Wear loose fitting clothing and flat non-slip shoes (running shoes OK). Preceded at 6 p.m. by a potluck (bring a dish to pass) and at 7 p.m. by a lesson. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $11 (members, $10; age 29 & under, $5). 665–7704.*

"19th-Century Castles and Villages Ball": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Various 19th-century dances from castles and villages of Central and Eastern Europe. Attendees encouraged to come in 19th-century attire or as a prince or princess, an old world villager, or a fictional character from European folktales. All dance levels welcome. Preceded at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by dance lessons. *7:45–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $30 (includes lessons). Preregistration requested at vintagedance.com/vict-ball.htm. 769–0041.*

"A Heritage Holiday": George Shirley Scholarship Fundraiser (Kerrytown Concert House). Performances by baritone **Robert Sims** and soprano **Leberta Lorál,** winners of the George Shirley Scholarship Competition. Proceeds benefit the scholarship that's awarded to U-M voice students. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $25 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

"Christmas Songbook": The King's Singers (University Musical Society). *(See review, p. 91.)* This world-renowned all-male British a cappella sextet is known for its polished singing, wittily charming performances, and eclectic repertoire ranging from 16th-century madrigals to contemporary pop songs and a sizable body of commissioned works by contemporary composers. Tonight's holiday program includes works by Lassus, Tchaikovsky, Holst, Rutter, and Irving Berlin, as well as traditional pop favorites. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $12–$60 in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

Marlena Studer: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Veteran local jazz vocalist, known for her passionate interpretations of jazz classics. With pianist Cliff Monear, bassist David Stearns, and drummer Scott Kretzer. Cookies and tea & hot chocolate. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $8 ($15 for 2). 665–0409.*

"Within Perception": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Concert. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Sorcerer": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 8 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Peter and the Starcatcher": U-M Theatre Department. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Tyler Boeh: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

11 SUNDAY

"Homegrown at the Cobblestone": CS2 Productions. Show and sale of handmade arts and crafts by local artists. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Free admission. (248) 875–7226.*

"Santa Central": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Kids invited to visit with Santa, play reindeer games, and enjoy a hayride. Snack. Photos with Santa available for $2, or bring your own camera. *10 a.m. and 12:30 & 2:30 p.m., Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $6 per child (adults, $3; kids under age 1, free). Preregistration required. $5 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★**"NYC Dance Project": Jewish Community Center Arts about Town.** NYC photographer Deborah Ory and U-M dance professor Peter Sparling discuss this website Ory started with her husband to showcase the NYC dance scene and their new book, *The Art of Movement.* Signing. *10:30 a.m.–noon, JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $15 (members, $10) includes brunch. 971–0990.*

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

UM PSYCHIATRY RESEARCH (HUM00041689)
Seeking Youth: Ages 8-18

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE:
☑ Caucasian, English speaking youth ages 8-18
☑ With or without history of behavioral or emotional concerns
☑ No history of substance abuse or intellectual disability
☑ No recent suicidal behavior
☑ Currently living with at least one biological parent

WHAT IS INVOLVED:
☑ Interview, questionnaires, EEG (electroencephalogram), decision-making task appointment, saliva sample and optional blood draw

COMPENSATION:
☑ Up to $200
For more information, contact Study Coordinator:
734-232-0507, childanxiety@umich.edu
University of Michigan

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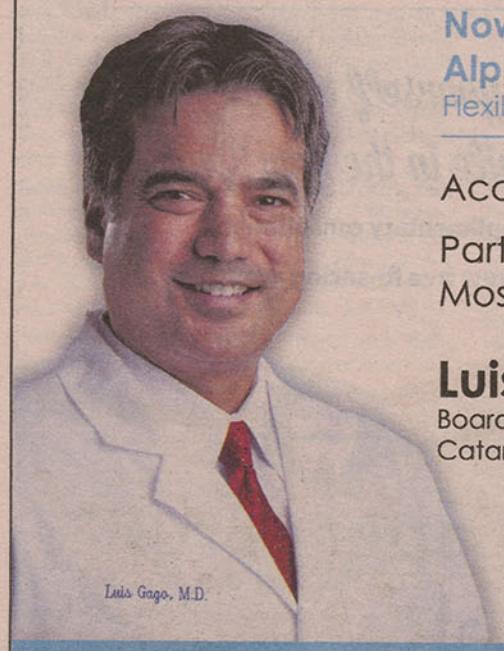

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"Wonderful Winter Woods": Leslie Science and Nature Center. All youth age 12 & under (accompanied by an adult) invited to join a guided hike through Black Pond Woods to look for tracks and other signs of winter animals. Participants can also make a reusable gift bag from an old T-shirt (T-shirts provided, or bring your own). Hot cocoa & stories by a blazing fire. *1–3 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $8 (members, $7) per child; adults, free. 997–1533.*

"Frosty on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate with Frosty the Snowman to recorded holiday music. Free candy canes. *1–2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 794–6235.*

★**Bittersweet Wreath Workshop: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance shows how to create a wreath from wild-harvested bittersweet. The program begins with a hike to harvest the vines; bring hand pruners. *1–4 p.m., Park Lyndon South (west lot), meet at the cabin, North Territorial Rd. (1.5 miles east of M-52), Dexter. 971–6337, ext. 335.*

U-M Detroit Observatory. Half-hour docent-guided tours of photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763–3482.*

★**"Engaging with Art": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the UMMA collection, with themes based on the docent's interests. *1–2 p.m., UMMA, meet at the Museum Store, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**"DIY Wrapped Yarn Vases": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *1–2 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

Winter Holiday Exhibition: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. AAFSC members of various ages and skating levels present freestyle, ice dance, and pairs performances. Preceded 1:15–1:50 p.m. by a **family open skate.** *2–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. Cash or canned food donation for Food Gatherers. 213–6768.*

★**"Community Vinyasa Yoga": Ann Arbor District Library.** A2 Yoga instructor Raina LaGrand leads adults and teens in grade 6 & up in a session of this brand of yoga that integrates breath and movement. *2–3 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★**"The Aesthetic Movement in America: Artists of the Photo-Secession": UMMA.** *(See review p. 93.)* Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of photos from the Pictorialism movement that favored soft-focus images that drew upon the conventions of painting. *2–3 p.m., UMMA, meet at the Museum Store, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Congolese Class Showing: U-M Dance Department.** An informal showing of dancing and drumming led by Congolese dance master teacher Biza Sompa. *2 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Studio A, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763–5460.*

"All about the Trio": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M jazz piano professor Ellen Rowe leads her trio and guest vocalist **Sunny Wilkinson** in one of her popular lecture-concerts. Today's program: **"The Music of Antonio Carlos Jobim."** *2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. Lisa Darby Clark directs local dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theater in Dance Alliance's 19th annual production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. *2 & 7 p.m., Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets $13. 429–9599.*

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. See 3 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Sorcerer": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": EMU Theatre Department. See 2 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Peter and the Starcatcher": U-M Theatre Department. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 p.m.

"Dronedog Episode 2: Election Day": Dreamland Theater. See 4 Sunday. 3 p.m.

★**"The Peace of Wild Things": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus.** Karen TenBrink directs this community choir of all ages in a nature-inspired program, including songs from the musicals *Annie Get Your Gun* and *The Secret Garden,* as well as works by Purcell and Mendelssohn, a Kenyan water song, a song setting of Wendell Berry's "The Peace of Wild Things," Barber's stunning "Sure on This Shining Night," "Blue Moon," "Blue Skies," and others. In celebration of the National Parks centennial. *3 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport. Free. 994–2300.*

★**"Gloria! A Christmas Concert": St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church.** Lucia Campbell conducts the church's adult and children's choirs in Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's Magnificat, Handel's "And the Glory of the Lord," and other seasonal sacred classics. With clarinetist Jim Campbell and pianists Charles Berofsky and Jeanne Marie Gerig. *3 p.m., St. Thomas, 530 Elizabeth St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–8606.*

★**"Celebrating the TBE Archive": Temple Beth Emeth.** Bracha Pallazzola discusses the temple's freshly organized archives and how to access them. Refreshments. *4–6 p.m., TBE library (downstairs), 2309 Packard. Free. 665–4744.*

★**Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Orchestra.** This volunteer ensemble, conducted by Anthony Elliott, is joined by the Dexter High School Concert & Chamber Orchestras and the Washtenaw Community Orchestra Chorus for a program of holiday music TBA. *4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 355–0725.*

★**41st Annual Christmas Concert: The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale.** U-M music professor emeritus Patterson directs this popular local choir in Christmas spirituals and works by African American composers. *4 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence. Free, but donations welcome. 769–4437.*

★**Logan Skelton: U-M School of Music.** This U-M piano professor is joined by tenor **Scott Piper** and soprano **Jennifer Goltz** in the Michigan premiere of his 3 new song cycles: *Broomstick: Songs of an Appalachian Witch* adapted from texts by John Biguenet, the E.E. Cummings poetry setting *anyone, someone, everyone, no one,* and *Letters to Santa: Messages from Children, Aphorisms on Childhood. 4 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"A Rose of Such Virtue: Christmas with Ann Arbor Grail Singers." Carmen Cavallaro directs this 14-voice women's early-music choir in a program of Christmas music spanning 12 centuries, including a 9th-century Advent hymn, Gregorian chants, and a wide variety of Renaissance Christmas songs from England, France, Spain, and the German empire. Accompanists are bray harpist **Gail Arnold,** recorder player **Beth Gilford,** viola da gambist **James Perretta,** and chamber organist **Anne Crawford.** *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. $15 (seniors, $12; students, $5). Cash or check only. AnnArborGrailSingers.org, 662–0631.*

★**"Cry Havoc": Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of the first volume of Simon Spurrier and Ryan Kelly's comic book saga about a character who is by turns a street musician savaged by a supernatural terror, a monster, and part of a unit of shape-shifting soldiers. Followed by the group's annual **holiday party** (tentative) and white elephant gift exchange. *4:30–6 p.m., location TBA. Free. lorrelsu@hotmail.com*

★**"Into the Woods": Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club.** All invited to discuss Tana French's bestselling novel about a Dublin detective who investigates a case chillingly similar to an unsolved mystery he was involved with as a child. *4:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**Christmas Concert: New Life Church.** The church's eclectic band performs arrangements of Christmas songs. *5 p.m., New Life Church, 1541 Washtenaw. Free. 623–6313.*

★**"Pet Photo Night": Briarwood.** All invited to bring 4-legged, leashed, friendly pets that weigh less than 60 lbs. to have their photo taken with Santa. *6:30–7:30 p.m., Briarwood Sears court. Free. 769–9610.*

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Oriol Sans conducts this student ensemble in Haydn's heartfelt and joyous Sym-

phony no. 101 ("The Clock") and the 2nd act of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* ballet. Preceded at 6:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture on the program. *7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

"Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam": Ann Arbor Senior Center. All singers, acoustic & electric guitarists, bassists, mandolinists, banjoists, ukulele players, percussionists, keyboardists, and other musicians invited to join organizer Michael Niemi to play folk, rock, country, or original tunes. Bring a music stand and copies of sheet music. Listeners welcome. *7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5 (members, free). Preregistration required for musicians at meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam. 794–6250.*

★**"Image of Race in America": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from several contemporary plays on race in America. *7 p.m., Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.*

★**Harpsichord Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Students perform Preludes and Fugues from Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier, Bk. 1. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

12 MONDAY

★**"Preschool ArtStart": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for preschoolers ages 2–5 accompanied by an adult. Siblings welcome. *10:30–11 a.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Origami Corrugations": Ann Arbor District Library.** Beth Johnson shows adults and teens in grade 6 & up how to do this Japanese paper folding art. Preceded by a short talk on the history of origami. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Cookies Galore!": Ann Arbor District Library.** People's Food Co-op head baker Keegan Rodgers presents a hands-on introduction to making and properly storing holiday (or any other) cookies. Recipes. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Annual Show and Tell Night": Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table.** Club members show and briefly discuss various Civil War–related items, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights have included a set of very rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Exhibit Room near the Administration Bldg. Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from Huron River Dr.). Free. (517) 750–2741.*

★**Winter Band Concert: Pioneer High School.** Program TBA. *7 p.m., Pioneer High School Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. Free. 996–3210.*

13 TUESDAY

"Democracy Under Siege: Promoting People's Voices in Our 2016 Democratic Process": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Talk by WSU law school dean Jocelyn Benson. Fourth in a series of 9 monthly lectures. *10–11:30 a.m., Rave Cinema, 4100 Carpenter. $65 (members, $45) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are $20 a year. $10 per lecture for members. 998–9351.*

★**"Memorializing Rebels, Martyrs, and Heroes in Argentina, 1966–83": U-M Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies.** Talk by WCED postdoc Jennifer Schaefer. *4–5:30 p.m., 1644 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★**"Dress for Success Michigan": American Business Women's Association.** Dress for Success coordinator Patricia Rudolph discusses this organization that helps underserved women get business clothing for interviews and jobs. The program begins with networking and dinner. *6 p.m., Quarter Bistro, 300 S. Maple. Free (purchase your own dinner). Reservations required by Dec. 8 at noon at abwa-maia.org/resform.html. moretime@umich.edu*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Ohio. The U-M also has games this month against **Vermont** (Dec. 17, noon), **American** (Dec. 22, 3:30 p.m.), and **Rutgers** (Dec. 28, 2 p.m.). *6:30 p.m., Crisler Center. $6 & $8 (groups of 10 or more, $3 each). 764–0247.*

★**"Conquer Your Cravings": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local yoga teacher and raw foods enthusiast Ellen Livingston discusses how to shift your cravings from things that harm you to things

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that promote health. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Mason Bees and Building Nest Boxes": Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers.** MSU entomology research technician Julia Brokaw and MSU entomology grad student Logan Rowe give a presentation on the mason bee, which uses mud to build compartments in its nests. *7–9 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. meghanom@gmail.com, 647–7600.*

"Ann Arbor Bluegrass Meetup": Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Dec. 13 & 27.* All musicians invited to bring their acoustic instruments to play bluegrass and bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome. *7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5 fee to cover building rental. meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Bluegrass-Meetup. 794–6250.*

★**"Frackopoly: The Battle for the Future of Energy and the Environment": Huron Valley Sierra Club Book Club.** All invited to discuss Wenonah Hauter's book. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

"George Takei's *Allegiance*": Fathom Events. Broadcast of *Star Trek* star Takei's Broadway musical, inspired by his life story, about the Kimuras, a Japanese American family forced to leave their home following the events of Pearl Harbor. Sam Kimura seeks to prove his patriotism by fighting in the war, but his sister fiercely protests the government's treatment of her people. Stars Takei and Tony winner Lea Salonga. *7:30 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter). Tickets $17 (Quality 16) & $19 (Rave) in advance at fathomevents.com/event/allegiance and at the door. 623–7469 (Quality 16) & 973–8424 (Rave).*

★**University Symphony Orchestra and Choirs: U-M School of Music.** These two student ensembles perform two great, dramatic, and inspiring works for large orchestra and large choir, including Mahler's Symphony no. 2 and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms.* Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture on the program. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

Rudy Royston Orion Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. This NYC-based trio, led by drummer Royston, plays eclectic, adventurous, emotional jazz. With saxophonist Jon Irabagon and bassist Yasushi Nakamura. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

14 WEDNESDAY

★**"What You Need to Know About Antibiotics and Resistance": U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Talk by U-M Geriatrics Center internal medicine professor Lona Mody. *10–11:30 a.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration recommended. 998–9353.*

"Emergency Flight Management for Safer Aviation": Ann Arbor City Club Lunch & Learn. Talk by U-M aerospace engineering professor Ella Atkins. Lunch. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $30 (members, $25). Reservations required by Dec. 9. annarborcityclub.org, 662–3279, ext. 1.*

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★**"Men of the New Order: Armenian Provincial Notables in the Age of Ottoman Reforms": U-M Armenian Studies Program.** Talk by U-M Armenian studies postdoc Yaşar Tolga Cora. *4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 763–0622.*

★**"Partisan Polarization on Environmental Protection and Climate Change": U-M Ford School of Public Policy Center.** Talk by U-M sociology professor Riley Dunlap. *4–5:30 p.m., 1110 Weill Hall, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615–3893.*

★**"DIY Mason Jar Lid Coasters": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to make a coaster by customizing cork-lined, mason jar lids with paint and other supplies. *6:30–8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Eau Chypre: Classic Perfumes Inspired by Oakmoss": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local flavor and fragrance expert Michelle Krell Kydd, creator of the award-winning smell and taste blog Glass Petal Smoke, discusses the aromatic mélange that is found in oakmoss absolute, an ingredient derived from a type of lichen, and some of the perfumes made from it. *6:30–8:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

"Art Show for Community Change": The Neutral Zone. Show of works by high school students. Music and a bake sale. Proceeds go toward care packages for Washtenaw County's homeless community. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. $5 (students, $3). 214–9995.*

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who shares Christmas stories. Q&A. Also, socializing. *7–9:30 p.m., Deep Spring Center, 704 Airport Blvd. (west off S. State north of Ellsworth). Free, but donations are accepted. 477–5848.*

"Blues Jam": Ann Arbor Senior Center. All invited to play, learn, and/or listen to blues and roots music. *7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5 fee to cover building rental. meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Blues-Jam. 794–6250.*

★**"In the Red and Brown Water": U-M Basement Arts.** *Dec. 14–16.* Leia Squillace directs students in Tarrel Alvin McCraney's 2009 play about a high school track star who gives up college to take care of her ailing mother. After her mother's death, she's faced with a difficult choice. *7 p.m. (tentative), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio One, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. facebook.com/basementarts*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

15 THURSDAY

"Nature Tales": Leslie Science and Nature Center. *Dec. 15 & 17.* All kids ages 1–5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a program of stories and nature-based activities exploring the world of **"Animal Tracks."** *10–11 a.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $4 per child. 997–1533.*

★**International Neighbors.** All area women invited for an afternoon of entertainment and games. Socializing, refreshments. Child care available for kids 5 & under. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. (313) 815–0413.*

★**"Finding Their Way: Maps of Exploration": U-M Clark Library.** Display of maps from the library's collection. *4–7 p.m., U-M Hatcher Grad Library 2nd floor, enter from the Diag. Free. 764–0410.*

★**"Digital History in a Digital Age?": U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies/ Kemp Family Symposium.** *Dec. 15 & 16.* This 2-day symposium kicks off with a keynote address on **"The Adventures of 25 Years in Digital History"** by University of Richmond president emeritus Edward Ayers. Friday is highlighted by **"'Everything on Paper Will Be Used Against Me': Quantifying Kissinger,"** a lecture by City University of New York digital fellow Micki Kaufman. *4–6:30 p.m. (Dec. 15) & 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (Dec. 16), 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615–7400.*

★**"Can Food Be Addictive? A Look at What We Eat and Why": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by U-M psychology professor Ashley Gearhardt. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"In the Red and Brown Water": U-M Basement Arts.** See 14 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**Holiday Concert: Washtenaw Community Concert Band.** Chris Heidenreich conducts this 70-member ensemble in a holiday program of works from England, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Scandinavia, and the U.S. Also, a carol singing. *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. wccband.org*

★**Winter Choir Concert: Pioneer High School.** Program TBA. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. Free. 996–3210.*

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Sean Kent: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 15–17.* This Texas stand-up comic, a 2-time contestant on the NBC show *Last Comic Standing,* is known for his incisive, edgy sociopolitical comedy. His CD *Waiting for the Rapture* is in heavy rotation on satellite radio. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $12 (Thurs.) & $15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

Ballroom Social: Footnotes Ballroom Company. Ballroom dancing to recorded music. *8:30–10 p.m., 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $5. 926–0107.*

16 FRIDAY

★**"Fix-It Friday": Maker Works.** All invited to bring anything that needs fixing—chairs, sweaters, radios, and more. Maker Works members and staff will be on hand to help fix things and offer advice. (Note: Repairs are not guaranteed.) *4–6 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd. north of Ellsworth). Free. 222–4911.*

"Pets & Pajamas": Huron Valley Humane Society. Kids ages 5–11 invited to watch ***How to Train Your Dragon,*** Chris Sanders' 2010 computer-animated fantasy adventure set in a mythical Viking world. Also, a chance to interact with adoptable pets. Pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. *5–9 p.m., Humane Society, 3100 Cherry Hill (south off Plymouth east of Dixboro). $35 ($15 for additional children). Preregistration required. hshv.org, 661–3575.*

★**"Monochrome": The Neutral Zone.** Exhibit of artwork by area teens. Also, music and a silk screening activity. *6–9 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. 214–9995.*

★**"Friends and Music at Calvary": Calvary Presbyterian Church.** All adults and teens with special needs invited for singing, dancing, and activities. Caregivers welcome. Food. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2727 Fernwood. Free. Preregistration requested. specialneeds@calvarya2.com, 971–3121.*

"Rudolph, Frosty & Friends": Saline Varsity Blues Holiday Show. *Dec. 16 & 17.* This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7–18 performs its annual program of holiday songs. *7 p.m., Saline Middle School auditorium, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Tickets $10 in advance at Busch's in Saline and Saline Community Education; $12 at the door. salinevarsityblues.org, 546–0264.*

"The Magic of Christmas": WCC. Local jazz guitarist John Lawrence leads a lineup of 30 local musicians in a program of holiday favorites, including everything from songs from the *Charlie Brown Christmas Special* and *Alvin & the Chipmunks* to Donny Hathaway's "This Christmas" and more. Proceeds benefit Safe House Center. *7 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $25. Reservations available. johnelaw@sbcglobal.net, 635–5446.*

"Dodworth Saxhorn Band Holiday Brass: Sounds of the Christmas Season": Stone Chalet Bed and Breakfast Inn and Event Center. Rousing 19th-century music by this award-winning local ensemble that plays period instruments to re-create the American brass band, a mainstay of 19th-century pop culture. *7 p.m., Stone Chalet, 1917 Washtenaw. Tickets $10–$25 in advance at events.stonechalet.com and (if available) at the door. 417–7223.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. *Dec. 16–18.* Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults—some of the adult dancers have danced in the production since they were tots. *7 p.m. (Dec. 16 & 17) & 1 p.m. (Dec. 17 & 18), Power Center. Tickets $30 (students & seniors, $25; kids age 11 & under, $15) available in advance at Michigan Union Ticket Office (muto.umich.edu), annarbornutcracker.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"In the Red and Brown Water": U-M Basement Arts.** See 14 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"A Ceremony Called Life: When Your Morning Coffee Is as Sacred as Holy Water": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Book Discussion.** All invited to join a discussion of psychic Tehya Sky's new book. *7:30–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Holiday Concert": Women's Chamber Chorus.** David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in an eclectic program that includes holiday favorites, some with jazzy adaptations, and upbeat contemporary tunes. Piano accompanist is Andrew Anderson. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free; donations accepted. 665–9271.*

"Glenn Tucker's Jazz Nativity": First Congregational Church. Detroit pianist Tucker performs his 5th annual Christmas program, which includes modern jazz arrangements of a range of Christmas music, with an emphasis on Messiaen's *Nativité* for pipe organ and *Vingt Regards* for piano. Other musicians include reeds player **Rafael Statin,** bassist **Ben Rolston,** and drummer **Jesse Kramer.** With narration by First Congregational minister **Robert Livingston.** *7:30 p.m., FCC, 608 E. William. $10. 662–1679.*

"The Snow Queen": Young Actors Guild. *Dec. 16–18.* Sue Roe directs young local actors in Stuart Patterson's adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale about a young girl's quest to find her friend whose heart has been frozen by the mysterious Snow Queen. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 16 & 17) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 17 & 18), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $10 (tentative). 926–5629.*

"When the World Was Young": Bolcom & Morris (Kerrytown Concert House). *See review, p. 98.* Ann Arbor's own nationally renowned husband-and-wife duo of pianist (and Pulitzer Prize–winning composer) Bill Bolcom and mezzo-soprano Joan Morris are celebrated exponents of early American popular song, which they perform with the sparkle and enthusiasm of true aficionados. Today's program spans 100 years of songs from the American Songbook, including works by James Reese Europe, Johnny Mercer, Rodgers & Hart, Bolcom & Weinstein, and others. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $20–$35 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

Katie Geddes & Friends: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). An evening of acoustic music hosted by Geddes, a local folksinger who sings in a clear, strong voice. Her repertoire includes songs by everyone from Buffy Sainte-Marie and John Prine to Michael Nesmith and Lennon & McCartney, and her recent CD *We Are Each Other's Angels* has gotten airplay around the world. The lineup also includes **All About Eve,** the vocal trio of Geddes, Deb Wood, and David Vaughn. They specialize in close-harmony pop, folk, and gospel tunes, some performed a cappella and some accompanied by guitarist Dan Reynolds. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662–4536, 665–8558.*

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Sean Kent: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

17 SATURDAY

★**69th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society.** The count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Ann Arbor; its 8 regions must be counted in a single day. This makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. Some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening at 6 p.m. *6 a.m. For instructions on where and when to show up and any further information, call Jacco Gelderloos at 973–9422. Free; donations accepted. To sign up as a feeder watcher, contact Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or khagemeister@sbcglobal.net.*

Christmas Bake Sale: St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church. Sale of traditional Russian and American holiday sweets and other favorites from around the world. Also, sale of gifts and souvenirs from Russia and Ukraine. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., St. Vladimir, 9900 Jackson Rd., Dexter. Free admission. 475–4590.*

★**"Saturday Morning Solar Q&A: Own Your Own Power": Homeland Solar.** Talk by a Homeland Solar representative. *10–11:30 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch 3rd floor, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. (313) 300–0579.*

★**Death Café.** All invited to join a frank conversation about death led by participants. Hosted by After Death Home Care founder Merilynne Rush. Tea & cake served. *10 a.m.–noon, Crazy Wisdom Tearoom, 114 S. Main. Free. 395–9660.*

"Pop-Up Makerspace": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 17 & 18.* All invited to try a hands-on engineering activity. This month's challenge: **"Make It Float."** *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & noon–4 p.m. (Sun.), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

★**"Recycled Gift-Giving with Boxes & Bows": Ecology Center of Ann Arbor.** All invited to

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"Little Peeps: Winter Holidays": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. An interactive performance, drama activities, and a craft for kids in grades PreK–5, accompanied by an adult. *10:30 a.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. $7 ($5 for each additional child). (989) 455–4484.*

★**Holiday Orchid Party and Bazaar: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids).** Auction of donated orchid-related items, including plants, books, and other items. Also, Great Lakes Judging Center student judge Gordon Griffon gives a presentation on **"Orchids at the Chelsea Flower Show, England and Wales."** Lunch. *11 a.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free admission; metered parking. (517) 332–0004.*

★**"A Visit with Father Christmas": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Kids, accompanied by a parent, invited to visit Father Christmas and have their photo taken. *Noon–2 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. 647–7600.*

★**Classical Bells: Ann Arbor District Library.** Darlene Ebersole directs this acclaimed Detroit-area handbell ensemble whose performances are known for their interpretive flair, technical skill, and informal choreography, along with a dash of humor. This popular annual concert showcases the group's varied repertoire of classical, inspirational, seasonal, popular, and even ragtime and swing tunes. *1–2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 16 Wednesday. 1 & 7 p.m.

"The Snow Queen": Young Actors Guild. See 16 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

International Folk Dancing: Ann Arbor Folkdancers. Dancing to recorded music. No partner needed; beginners welcome. The program begins with a lesson. *7–10 p.m., Gretchen's House Childcare Center, 2625 Traver. $5 (students, $3). 709–8748.*

★**Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America.** All invited for a program TBA. *7 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 678–5497, (517) 927–3696.*

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Paper Snowflakes": Ann Arbor District Library.** All ages invited to learn how to cut out paper snowflakes. *7:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate Branch, Westgate shopping center, 2503 Jackson. Free. 327–8301.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Grange. Peter Baker calls to live music by Debbie Jackson and Brad Battey. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by a lesson. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., just south of Oak Valley Dr. $10 (members, $7; students, $5). 476–4650.*

"Celebración": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Benjamin Cohen directs this local 24-voice chamber choir in a Spanish-flavored program highlighted by Conrad Sousa's celebrated *Spanish Carols and Lullabies,* seasonal Sephardic music sung in Ladino, and Spanish-inspired music from the Renaissance to the 21st century. The program also includes folk music of the Sephardic diaspora as well as traditional carols. *8 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. Tickets $20 (seniors age 65 & over and students, $15; youth in grade 12 & under, free) in advance from VAE members or at vocalartsannarbor.org.*

Jason Dennie & Friends: Mangiamo Italian Grill Acoustic Routes Concert. Acoustic ensemble led by singer-songwriter Dennie, a highly regarded local acoustic fingerstyle guitarist and mandolinist who plays an eclectic brand of folk-based music in the tradition of John Fahey, Leo Kottke, and Michael Hedges. *8 p.m., Mangiamo, 107 W. Michigan Ave., Saline. $15 by reservation and at the door. Preferred seating for dinner customers. 429–0060.*

Alberto Nacif & Aguankó: Kerrytown Concert House. Conga and bongo player Nacif leads this Afro-Cuban jazz band in works from the band's 2013 and 2015 albums as well as their new release, ***Latin Jazz Christmas in Havana.*** With timbales player Olman Piedra, pianist Rick Roe, saxophonist Russ Miller, bassist Pat Prouty, trombonist Chris Smith, and trumpeter Anthony Stanco. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Morning After Grace": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Sean Kent: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

18 SUNDAY

"The Nutcracker": Fathom Events. Broadcast of the Bolshoi Ballet (Moscow) production of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet with classic choreography by Yuri Grigorovich. Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. *12:55 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Rave (4100 Carpenter). Tickets $17 in advance at fathomevents.com/event/Bolshoi-the-nutcracker and at the door. 623–7469 (Quality 16) & 973–8424 (Rave).*

★**"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** First Steps Washtenaw instructor Monica Higman leads infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) in a program of music and movement. *1–1:40 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Holiday Sing-Along": Wolverine State Brewing Co.** Family-oriented sing-along led by award-winning local children's entertainer Kevin Devine. Also, a visit from Santa. All encouraged to bring canned or other nonperishable food items to donate to Food Gatherers. *1–2 p.m., Wolverine, 2019 W. Stadium. Free admission. 369–2990.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 16 Wednesday. 1 p.m.

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. Drake Meadow calls to live music by Donna Baird and Fred Karsch. For kids, accompanied by an adult. Followed by Grange-baked cookies and cocoa. *2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $12 per family (members, free). 769–1052.*

★**"Stix & Tones": Ann Arbor District Library.** The **Stratus Ensemble**—the local duo of flutist Joanna Goldstein and percussionist Shane Jones—presents an interactive program for kids in grades preK–3 to introduce musical elements such as melody, rhythm, ostinato, improvisation, and more. *2–2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate the primal mother and father deities, Danu and Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Followed by a potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. *2–5 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free. 277–1897.*

★**"Europe on Paper: The Ernst Pulgram and Frances McSparran Collection": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of graphic art by Austrian and German expressionists and the inventive Italian artist Giovanni Battista Piranesi. *2–3 p.m., UMMA, meet at the Museum Store, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

52nd Annual Community *Messiah* Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 40 to 50 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by Richard Ingram. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 1:30 p.m. Cider, water, and hot tea provided; bring goodies to share. *2 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. $5 suggested donation to help defray cost of using the building. Prospective orchestra members should contact Meg Gower at megower@umich.edu or 433–0150.*

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Snow Queen": Young Actors Guild. See 16 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"Winter Solstice Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads kids ages 7–12 on a hike to look for signs of animal life. *3–5 p.m.,*

Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, north off North Territorial, Dexter. Free. 971–6337, ext. 335.

★"Raptor Feeding": Leslie Science & Nature Center. LSNC volunteers feed and answer questions about the center's red-tailed hawk, peregrine falcon, and other resident raptors, who may come out of their enclosures to eat. *3–4 p.m. Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 997–1553.*

★Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program of holiday music highlighted by performances of "O Holy Night" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" with guest baritone Chuck Colby of Three Men and a Tenor. Also, "The Eighth Candle," "A Fireside Christmas," a rousing variation on "The Twelve Days of Christmas" from *A Holiday Rhapsody,* the Overture to *Miracle on 34th Street,* and other festive selections. The program concludes with a visit from Santa, who provides candy canes for kids and joins a singalong of traditional Christmas songs. Followed by a cookies & punch reception. *3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426–2734.*

"Dronedog Episode 2: Election Day": Dreamland Theater. See 4 Sunday. 3 p.m.

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★"Traditional King's College Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir, 2 children's choirs, and handbell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. The music begins with a haunting solo treble performance of "Once in royal David's city." *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

Ann Arbor Poetry. Poetry open mike. *7–9 p.m. (sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. $5 suggested donation. facebook.com/AnnArborPoetry.*

★"Journey to the Manger: A Night of Music on the Northside": Northside Community Church Holiday Concert. Sheree and Paul Clark direct the church's chancel and bell choirs in a varied program of vocal and instrumental holiday music with spirituals. With Kathryn Goodson on piano. Reception follows. *7 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free; donations accepted for a local nonprofit. 662–6351.*

Bittersweet Christmas Band Concert: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. This quartet of folk musicians from Illinois and the U.P. performs folky holiday music in 4-part harmony, with guitar, banjo, mountain dulcimer, and percussion. Their repertoire ranges from the reverent to the ridiculous, including everything from traditional Christmas hymns and carols to humorous parodies. *7:30 p.m., email for location. $12 (members, $10). hellmann@umich.edu. 274–0773 (day of concert), 769–1052.*

19 MONDAY

★"Winter Ballet Storytime Fun!": Ann Arbor District Library. Storytelling program, with movement and music, celebrating the art of ballet. For preschoolers through 2nd graders. *1–1:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★Embroiderers' Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects together and learn about guild activities. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *6:45–9 p.m., Pittsfield Village Community Bldg., 2220 Pittsfield Blvd. (park on the street, or in the south lot). Free to visitors (annual dues for those who join). 994–4385.*

Nucleus: Mangiamo Italian Grill Acoustic Routes Concert. Reunion of this early 80s Dexter rock band whose repertoire includes Southern rock and acoustic rock originals, along with classic rock covers of songs by the likes of the Beatles and the Eagles. Opening acts are **Sunday Truce,** a rock band led by recent Saline High grad Jake Enos, and **Allocoustic,** an acoustic folk-rock trio of Saline High students. *8 p.m., Mangiamo, 107 W. Michigan Ave., Saline. $15 by reservation and at the door. Preferred seating for dinner customers. 429–0060.*

20 TUESDAY

★Polka Jam Session. All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. Preceded at 6 p.m. by dinner ($5–$8). *7–9 p.m., Milan Moose Lodge, 14484 Sanford Rd. (just north of Milan-Oakville Rd.), Milan. Free. 529–3903.*

★Skazat! Poetry Series at Sweetwaters. Reading by the widely published Detroit poet **Casey Rocheteau,** author of the new collection *The Dozen* and winner of the inaugural Detroit Write-a-House residency in 2014. The program begins with open mike readings. *7–8:30 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 994–6663.*

★Spirituality Book Club: Temple Beth Emeth. *Dec. 20 & 22.* TBE cantor emerita Annie Rose leads a discussion of ***The Ten Challenges,*** Leonard Felder's practical approach to the Ten Commandments. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 20) & 12:30 p.m. (Dec. 22), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free; preregistration requested via email to cantorannie@gmail.com. 665–4744.*

The Moth Storyslam: Michigan Radio. See 6 Tuesday. Tonight: **"Give and Take."** 8 p.m.

21 WEDNESDAY

"L'Amour de Loin": Fathom Events. See 10 Saturday. 6:30 p.m.

★"Robot Movie Night and Robot Show & Tell": Michigan Robot Club. Screening of a documentary about a "Rescue Robot" competition in which humanoid robots attempt to drive cars and enter damaged buildings to perform emergency services. Also, historic videos of Russian and U.S. "worm drive" (corkscrew) ATVs as well as the club's quarterly show-and-tell for members to show off their latest creations. Preceded at 6 p.m. by a **Kids Robot Club** meeting for kids ages 5–13, accompanied by a parent, that includes a chance to build, program, and run a Lego Mindstorms robot. *7–9 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd. north of Ellsworth). Free. mirobotclub.com*

★"Drummunity!" Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

Winter Solstice Sing: Michigan Friends Center. All adults and older children invited to join an outdoor circle to learn and sing seasonal songs, rounds, and chants. *7–9 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clark Lake Rd. (off Oakridge from Waterloo Rd. west of M-52), Chelsea. Donation. Preregistration requested. 475–1892.*

★Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss ***But the Crackling Is Superb,*** Nicholas Kurti and Giana Kurti's 1988 collection of recipes written by members of the Royal Society. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

22 THURSDAY

★"Toddler Hike: The Winter Woods": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads kids ages 2–4, accompanied by a caregiver, on a hike to discover what is revealed when trees lose their leaves. *10–11 a.m., County Farm Park. Free. Preregistration required at parks.ewashtenaw.org (registration #821003, section A). 971–6337, ext. 335.*

★"Geometric Origami 101": Ann Arbor District Library. Local crafter Beth Battey shows adults and youth in grade 4 & up the basics of the art of this Japanese paper folding and how to make geometric shapes and boxes. *7–8:45 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Kevin Downey, Jr.: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 22 & 23.* Detroit native who made his TV debut at age 6 on CKLW's *The Bozo Show,* this popular New York City–based comic is known for his bizarre stage personality, odd delivery, and twisted but clever sense of humor. "Kevin is sort of a loser teetering on the brink of a mental breakdown," says one reviewer, "kinda like Bobcat Goldthwait with the point of view of Steven Wright." Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

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2016 - 2017 YEAR OF HUMANITIES & PUBLIC POLICY

Institute for the Humanities
University of Michigan December 2016

A Letter to our Community,

I want to reach out to the community of Friends and Fellows, Presenters and Collaborators, Attendees and Sojourners who make the Institute for the Humanities a place celebrating the role of the arts, humanities, and humanistic social sciences in the academy and the world.

The Institute dedicates itself to projecting the heterogeneous values of humanistic inquiry and exchange. We gather here artists, scholars, and community members willing to engage what has been thought and created and done, in violence and radical renunciation, in the rapture of belief and the cool of disbelief, amid the frenzy of the crowd and the quiet of solitude, in the name of the past and the aspiration of tomorrow. Willing to reanimate the past, observe the present, and project possible futures, by means of profligate curiosity, ardent receptivity, and incisive critique. Willing to listen for the profligacy and urgency of storytelling, epic and episodic, raw and highly stylized, fictive and documentary, historical and ethnographic, syncretic and disruptive. Willing to reflect on systems of value, in politics and the academy, in aesthetics and material cultures. Willing to upend thought, reflect on thinking, and rethink the meaning attached to the "the human" and "the humanities."

In programming and exhibit activities, we seek out opportunities to project our values of inclusivity, collaboration, disruption, surprise, and capacious diversity. In our venues people model the sociality of invested engagement, genuine openness to the uncomfortable and overlooked, serious debate and dissent. We recognize the greater good of distributed expertise, the pursuit not of one kind of knowledge but the many routes and networks of knowledge production.

We welcome, everyday humanists and experts across the disciplines; undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and the broader Ann Arbor community. Bring us your programming ideas, collaborate with us to ensure that we are achieving our goal of advancing the work of the humanities collectively and collaboratively. Contact us at humin@umich.edu.

Sidonie Smith

Mary Fair Croushore Professor
Director, Institute for the Humanities
University of Michigan

LSA INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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23 FRIDAY

"Sugar Plum Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Mary Poppins": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Kevin Downey, Jr.: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 22 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

24 SATURDAY

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. *Dec. 24 & 31.* Skating to music by a DJ. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 794–6235.*

★**Living Nativity: First Congregational Church.** Costumed reenactors present the traditional Nativity scene, accompanied by a live camel, goats, sheep, and a donkey. *4–8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 662–1679.*

★**Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with congregational carol singing led by the church's chancel choir. Preceded at 4:30 & 6:30 p.m. by a performance of John Rutter's Gloria. *5 & 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"A Musical Prelude to Worship": Zion Lutheran Church.** Zion's chancel choir, handbell choir, praise band, and vocal and instrumental soloists present a program of music celebrating the birth of Christ. *6:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 994–4455.*

★**Lessons and Carols: Northside Community Church.** A child-friendly celebration of Christmas stories and music highlighted by tenor Glenn Perry's performance of "O Holy Night," handbell solos by Sheree Clark, and a singing of "Silent Night" in the round. *7–8 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662–6351.*

★**Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church.** The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Children welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. *7:30–9 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.*

★**"Festival Prelude": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church choir, bell choir, soloists, and other musicians in Ralph Vaughan Williams' concert version of *The First Nowell*, as well as his *Fantasia on Greensleeves*. Also, the St. Dunstan Handbell Choir performs Christmas music. *10 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

25 SUNDAY (CHRISTMAS)

See Michigan Theater listings in Films, p. 83.

26 MONDAY

"Hands-On Holidays": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 26–Jan. 8.* Family-friendly hands-on activities and demonstrations. With live entertainment at 1 p.m. each day, including **Yo-Yo Master Zeemo** (Dec. 26 & 27), **Dreamland Theater** (Dec. 28 & 29), and **"Dan the Creature Man"** (Dec. 30 & 31). *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Mon.–Sat., except Dec. 31), noon–4 p.m. (Sun., except Jan. 1), 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 31), & noon–5 p.m. (Jan. 1), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $12 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★**"Folk Song Sing-Along."** All invited to join a family-oriented recreational sing-along of folk songs. Bring your guitars, ukuleles, and other instruments if you'd like to jam along as well. Lyrics and chords are projected on a screen for singers and strummers. Led by Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski. *7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 426–7818.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Dec. 26–31.* Movie and TV star, playwright, and Purple Rose founder Daniels is also a singer-songwriter whose folk-flavored originals include such favorites as "If William Shatner Can, I Can, Too," "The Lifelong Tiger Fan Blues," "State Trooper," and "Recreational Vehicle." His shows are interspersed with chats about how each song came to be. A benefit for Purple Rose. *7 p.m. (Dec. 26–29), 2 p.m. (Dec. 28), 8 p.m. (Dec. 30 & 31), & 3 p.m. (Dec. 31). Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $78 (except Dec. 31 8 p.m. show, $88). purplerosetheatre.org, 433–7673.*

27 TUESDAY

★**Cardboard Town Challenge": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to use cardboard, tape, and connectors to build a small model town. Materials provided. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Secret Lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Monday. 7 p.m.

28 WEDNESDAY

★**Laura Joh Rowland: Aunt Agatha's.** This best selling-historical mystery writer, a U-M grad and former aerospace scientist, discusses her new novel, ***The Ripper's Shadow,*** a mystery set in 1880s London about a "boudoir photographer" who gets caught up in the hunt for Jack the Ripper when 2 of her models are found gruesomely murdered. Signing. Refreshments. *2 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Monday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Cardboard Jaws": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 1–5 invited to use cardboard, tape, and connectors to make a scary monster that can move its mouth. Materials provided. *7–8 p.m., AADL Westgate Branch, Westgate shopping center, 2503 Jackson. Free. 327–8301.*

"Hashtag Comedy Show": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Performances, with audience participation, both live and via social media, by several up-and-coming area stand-up comics TBA. Hosted by veteran Detroit comics Darnell Anderson and KJ Robinson. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $8 reserved seating in advance and general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

29 THURSDAY

★**"Drinking Straw Necklaces": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 invited to make a colorful necklace using common drinking straws. *2–3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Monday. 7 p.m.

Dobie Maxwell: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 29 & 30.* This veteran Milwaukee-bred comic is an explosively animated performer who specializes in cartoonish tales of the myriad misfortunes that have beset him since he was abandoned as a young child by his biker parents. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

30 FRIDAY

"Family Mew-vie Night": Huron Valley Humane Society. Screening of ***Happy Feet,*** George Miller's Oscar-winning 2006 animated feature set in an Antarctic emperor penguin colony. Also, a chance to snuggle with adoptable cats. Popcorn, juice, and water. Kids must be accompanied by an adult (at least 1 for every 3 kids). Bring pillows, sleeping bags, and blankets, if you wish. *7–9 p.m., Tiny Lions Center, 5245 Jackson Rd. (ste. A1). $7. 661–3575.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Monday. 8 p.m.

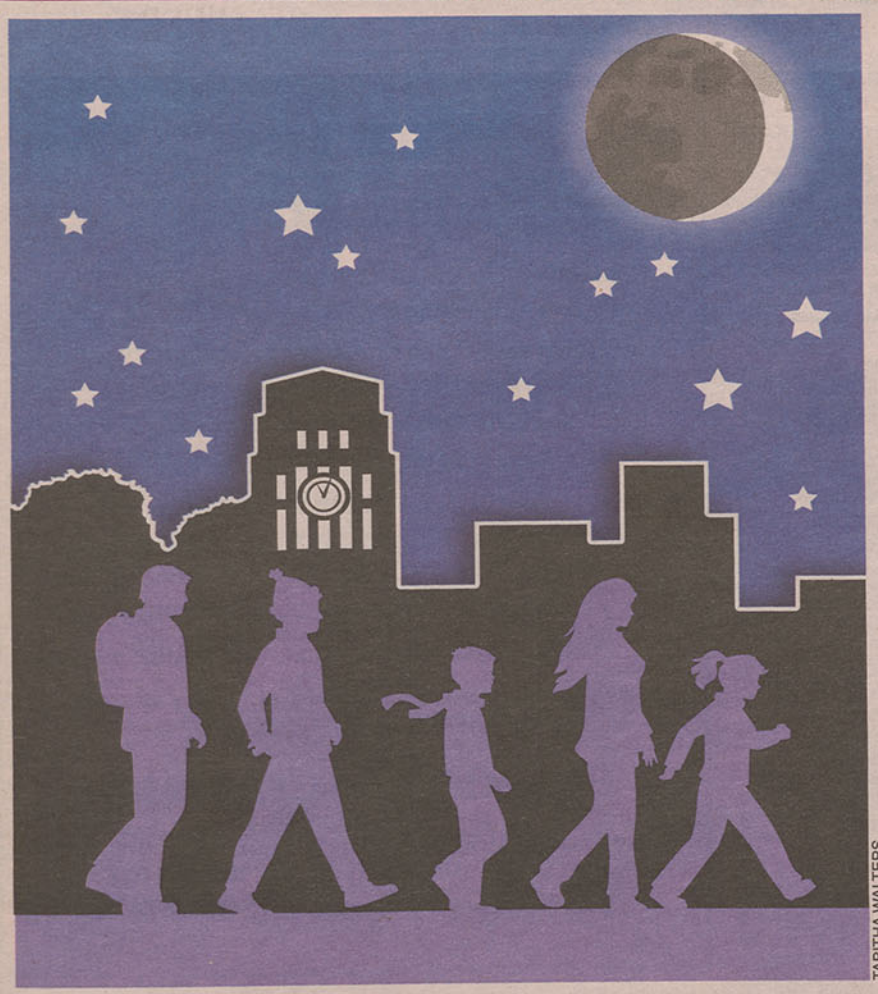
Dobie Maxwell: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 29 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

31 SATURDAY (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Monday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"New Year's Eve with the Pete Siers Trio": Kerrytown Concert House. Local drummer Siers leads his trio in a program to celebrate the release of their new album, *Goodman and Beyond, Vol. II.* With clarinetist Dave Bennett and pianist Tad Weed. *7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $20–$40 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

★**"New Year's Eve Gourmet Dinner Trek": Of Global Interest.** *See review, p. 107.* Local adventure tour company owners Pem Dorjee Sherpa and Heather O'Neal lead an invigorating 5-mile hike



TABITHA WALTERS

The Himalayan Bazaar's New Year's Eve Trek

Sherpa trekking in Ann Arbor

At 7:30 we start off, about two dozen of us, wearing blinkers on our backs to help us keep track of one another and to warn traffic in the dark. It's the Himalayan Bazaar's annual New Year's Eve Gourmet Dinner Trek, led by Bazaar owners Pem Dorjee Sherpa and Heather O'Neal, who run an adventure travel service and decided to bring a small Sherpa adventure to Ann Arbor to celebrate the turning of the year. It's a great contemplative way to avoid the deadly poles of enforced festivity and alcohol-induced gloom.

We walk south on Main and circle Michigan Stadium. It's cold, in the low twenties, but we're moving, and talk and excitement keep the cold at bay. It's not until our first food stop, when we sit, that the chill begins to seep in. Urban though it may be, you bring food and drink, mountain style, on this trek, for yourself and to share with others. Our leaders carry plates and cups.

It's a commonplace that walking brings small details into view, but this trek kicks that up a notch. Grateful to begin walking again, we head back north along the path of underground Allen Creek, sticking mostly to streets but passing through some parking lots downtown close to where the creek is buried and where it may emerge again. The plans for making the creek once again into a greenway seem a bit more concrete now, and a reporter from WEMU, tagging along partway, interviews us about the idea.

A group this size offers a decent chance that you'll know someone else who's along for the walk, and sure enough I do. A work friend and I chat and hit on an innovative solution to something. I make some new friends, but there's plenty of time to walk along and think as we eat again in West Park and then make our way through Water Hill, down to N. Main, and across Barton Dam. Our final meal stop at Argo canoe livery is chilly indeed. But contemplation is heightened by a bit of physical discomfort.

Crossing the river again, we wrap up at Kerrytown, whose chime is open to the group. Ringing in the new year, literally, is a bit revelatory—you can sing "Auld Lang Syne" any old time. It was never a New Year's Eve song anyway, until Guy Lombardo, who had learned it in Scottish bars in southwestern Ontario, made it one.

Pem Dorjee Sherpa has climbed Mount Everest twice, so this is one event that's not going to be canceled due to bad weather! The previous year's trek went over to Ypsilanti in bitter cold, and annual trekkers told me that experience had reduced the size of the crowd. The whole trek is about four and a half hours long, and for part of that time you'll be sitting down. So dress warmly! If I'm in town, I'll be doing the trek again.

—James M. Manheim

from downtown to Nichols Arboretum, Island Park, Riverside Park, and Kerrytown. Potluck dinner at 3 stops along the way (bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish, or dessert to share and your own beverage and water; plates, forks, and napkins provided). Followed by a midnight bell concert on the Kerrytown chimes. Rain, snow, sleet, or (moon) shine. Dress for the weather. *8 p.m., meet at the Himalayan Bazaar, 218 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. ofglobal@aol.com*

L.A. Hardy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. This L.A. comic is known for his sardonic stories about everyday life and his biting social commentary. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $25 (8 p.m.) & $30 (10:30 p.m.) in advance & at the door. 996–9080.*

"A New Year's Anniversary Show": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. Live music, stories by local state representative Jeff Irwin, and a performance by the League of Pointless Improvisers. In celebration of Pointless Brewery & Theatre's first anniversary. *10 p.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Tickets $15. info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

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The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 9.

West side 1-bed apartment or 3-bedroom home. (734) 846–5864.

Wanted

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 9.

Martyrs – Job involves dying in crosswalk to force city to install signal there. Set your own hours.

Ray Printing Co., a fast-paced, detail oriented, and creative commercial printing company, is seeking a **full time Graphic Designer.**
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Or email to accounting@rayprinting.com.

Personals

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 9.

Free Senior Service–Make friends, date, meet partner, marry, etc. (734) 757–8124.

60 y.o. female looking for companions to enjoy local holiday related events such as holiday musicals, holiday concerts, holiday movies, etc. 2031191@gmail.com.

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 9.

I SPY CONTEST

Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 115? If you can, you could win a $25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 9. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769–3375; email: ispy@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST

Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon December 9. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: fakead@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

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To advertise, email, fax, or mail your ad info to the address below by the 9th of the month.

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Mail, email, or fax your ad to:
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Email: classifieds@aaobserver.com

Please include your name and contact information.

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

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Dear Readers,

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Please confirm your FREE subscription.

You may call our office to confirm at 734.769.3175, fill out the form below and mail it to our office, or email the information to subscribe@aaobserver.com. The confirmation is good for 3 years.

Why is this important?

To maintain our second-class-periodical postal status, which includes a faster, more economical delivery service, we have to show the post office that our readers want to keep receiving the Ann Arbor Observer.

Since 1976, the Observer has been a locally owned community resource. We want to continue to provide the Observer to all permanent Ann Arbor residents and chamber members in Washtenaw County. We are making every effort to keep costs in line and maintain our commitment to quality. **Please take a few minutes to confirm your FREE subscription.** Or become an Observer Friend! See page 115 for more information.

Thanks for reading the Observer.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Garcia
Publisher

All new "Observer Friends" and FREE subscription confirmations received by **December 9** will be entered in a drawing for a **$25 Gift Certificate** at your choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

☐ **Yes!** I am a resident of the Ann Arbor Public School District and I want to continue receiving the Ann Arbor Observer and City Guide free of charge. Enter me in the $25 Gift Certificate drawing!

Call us at (734) 769–3175 extension 301
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Visit www.LaurieBuys.com for more details.

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MARKET UPDATE – December 2016

Winter is almost here! The market is red-hot in most areas and price ranges. This is shaping up to be another record run for home sales in Ann Arbor. Driven by our strong local economy and extremely low interest rates, home sales are off to an excellent pace in 2016. Are you thinking about making a real estate move in 2016? Now is the time to start the process. Call me today for a private consultation, 734-476-7100.

SELLERS – The value of your home is at its highest level since 2007. Demand for your home is at the highest level since 2004. But this market is far from "easy". The issues of pricing, managing multiple offers, and successfully appraising the home with the buyer's lender are more complex than ever. It takes an experienced agent with an effective strategy to successfully sell your home and get it closed. Please call me to discuss your situation today. 734-476-7100.

BUYERS – Word on the street is that there are no quality homes to buy. Somehow I manage to lead the county in closed buyer sales year to date. I have been successful in finding the best homes available for most of my buyers (not all, sorry). The process of home selection, offer strategy, and financing are a challenge. You need an experienced agent in your corner to find the right house and successfully close. Call me today to start your search. 734-476-7100.

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GEDDES GLEN – This 5-bedroom, 5-bath custom-built home represents the finest in location, design, and craftsmanship. Incredible setting in Ann Arbor's only gated community. Enjoy quality outdoor living with full exterior kitchen, multiple patios with fireplace, and hot tub. The interior is showplace and includes dual staircase in entry, two-story living and family rooms, cherry kitchen, dream master suite, and finished lower level with theater. $1,595,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BURNS PARK – Rare 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath recently built home in the heart of one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This custom-built home represents all of the character of a Burns Park with modern amenities and upgrades throughout. Features include all hardwood flooring on the main level, gourmet kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, open concept floor plan, luxury master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and finished lower level. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath Frank Llyod Wright inspired contemporary home is a pure masterpiece of design and materials. Estate setting with 8 acres of the most beautiful land you will find. Includes extensive landscaping with a flowing stream, stone patio, and pond. The home highlights include soaring ceilings, dramatic slate fireplace, stone flooring, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout lower level. $1,250,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEWPORT CREEK – Stunning, custom-built 5-bedroom, 4-bath, 2 ½-bath home resting on one of the most premium lots in Newport Creek. Enjoy year-around views of the protected nature area and mature forest from almost every room in the home. The impressive list of amenities includes two-story family with wall of glass, cherry kitchen with 11 ft. ceiling, professional grade appliances, and granite, oversized den, luxury master suite with spa-like bath, and finished walk-out basement. $1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PORTAGE LAKE – Enjoy lake living at its finest from this 4-bedroom, 5 ½-bath home with 110 feet of frontage on the area's best lake. This is a completely new and modern home custom-built to the highest standards. Features include dramatic living room with vaulted ceiling, open concept floor plan with large family room, cherry kitchen with granite and high end appliances, and dream master suite with luxury bath. All rooms look to the lake. Spectacular! $999,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TRAVIS POINTE – This 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath custom-built contemporary home rests on the premier site in Travis Pointe with panoramic views of the 11th, 12th, and 13th holes. You will not find a finer setting anywhere! The home features beautiful grounds, multiple outdoor living areas, dramatic interior design, a stone fireplace, large great room, custom kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and a finished walkout lower level. $998,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANGELL ELEMENTARY – Wonderful 5-bedroom, 3-bath, two ½-bath brick home. Walking distance to UM Central Campus, UM Hospital, and Angell Elementary. Features all the charm and character you've been hoping for plus many modern updates. The highlights include a wonderful outdoor setting with extensive landscaping and raised patio. All hardwood floors, updated kitchen, large living room with fireplace, two main level dens, master bedroom with walk-in closet, and finished basement. $995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEWPORT HILLS – Incredible, custom-built 4-bedroom, 2-bath, 2 ½-bath colonial rests on one of the most beautiful sites you will see. Enjoy being minutes from schools (Wines Elementary), downtown Ann Arbor, and University of Michigan. Features included wooded setting with mature trees, large backyard, all brick exterior, custom kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, open family room with fireplace, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TIMBER TRACE GOLF COURSE – Stunning, custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath ranch with panoramic golf course views. This home was constructed to the highest standard of materials and craftsmanship. Features of this home include extensive landscaping, large deck, patio, living room with hardwood floor, open concept kitchen with custom cabinets and professional grade appliances, den with built-ins, luxury master suite, and one of the finest finished walkout lower levels you have ever seen with rec room, 2nd kitchen, home theater, and spa-like bath. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Stunning 6-bedroom, 4 ½-bathroom custom-built home on Boulder Pond in Stonebridge. You will not find a finer setting on the market today with panoramic water views from almost every room in the house. This home has a wonderful contemporary flair. It features a two-story great room with wall of glass to the water, open kitchen with maple cabinets and granite, main level den, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $779,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Striking 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath custom-built ranch on a very private cul-de-sac lot with view of the #7 fairway at Stonebridge Golf Club. The setting is wonderful; enjoy summer from the nicest screened porch you will see. Interior highlights include great room with high ceiling, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, open concept family room with fireplace, luxury master with remodeled bath, and finished lower level with great multi-use space. $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

UM CAMPUS RENTAL PROPERTY – Perfect 2 unit rental property walking distance to UM Central Campus, athletic facilities, and Main Street. The main floor unit features two bedrooms, hardwood floors, and lots of character. The 2nd unit is 4-bedroom with lots of space for a large group. $569,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BRIARHILL – Completely upgraded 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath two-story on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. You will love all of the current colors and materials in this very well done home. Features included dramatic two-story living room, maple kitchen with granite counter tops, open family room with stone face fireplace, luxury master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and walkout basement. $460,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

THE WATERWAYS – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath, two-story on a quiet, wooded cul-de-sac lot in one of the most popular neighborhoods in the Saline School District. Enjoy this beautiful backyard setting from the spacious deck or wonderful sunroom. The interior of this home is sharp. Highlights include all hardwood flooring on the main floor, open concept kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite, and finished basement with daylight window. $459,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

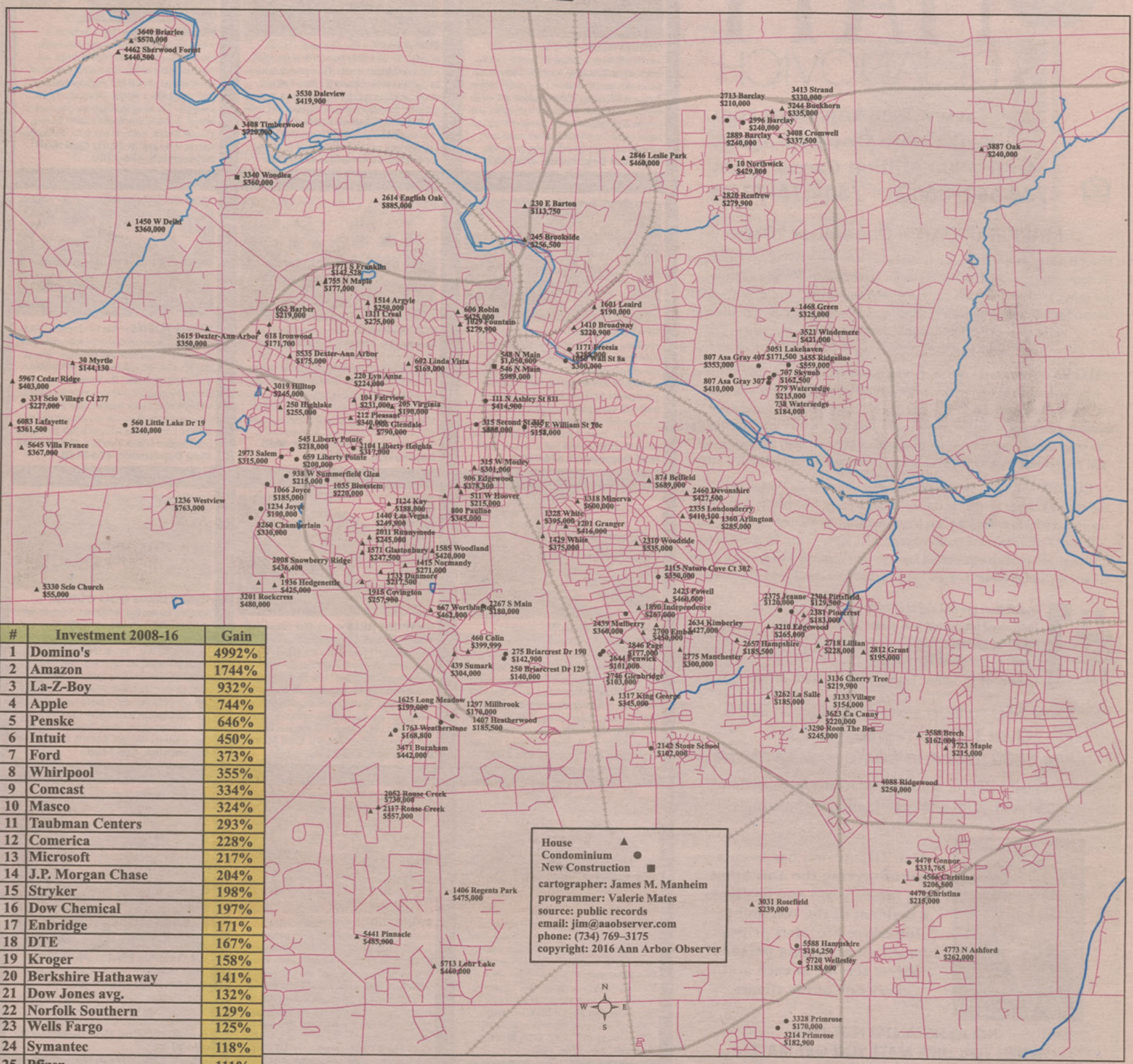
SALINE – Hard to find 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath ranch on 10 acres in Pittsfield Township. Incredible setting with 10 wooded acres featuring mature trees and nature trail. The interior of this home has been completely redone. Highlights include spacious living room, large kitchen with many recent updates, master suite with remodeled bath, and spacious secondary bedrooms. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – WOODS OF ANN ARBOR CONDO – This 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath townhome rests on a quiet interior setting just minutes to Downtown Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. You will love the long list of features and amenities including private deck, open concept floor plan, large living room, spacious kitchen, master suite with attached bath, and 2-car garage. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP – Hard to find 3-bedroom, 1-bath country farmhouse with a 30 ft. x 50 ft. newer pole barn. Wonderful 1.46 acre setting with mature trees and a small stream. The house features a welcoming sun room, spacious living room, updated kitchen, formal dining room, and a large master bedroom. $174,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

OCTOBER 2016

HOME SALES



#	Investment 2008-16	Gain
1	Domino's	4992%
2	Amazon	1744%
3	La-Z-Boy	932%
4	Apple	744%
5	Penske	646%
6	Intuit	450%
7	Ford	373%
8	Whirlpool	355%
9	Comcast	334%
10	Masco	324%
11	Taubman Centers	293%
12	Comerica	228%
13	Microsoft	217%
14	J.P. Morgan Chase	204%
15	Stryker	198%
16	Dow Chemical	197%
17	Enbridge	171%
18	DTE	167%
19	Kroger	158%
20	Berkshire Hathaway	141%
21	Dow Jones avg.	132%
22	Norfolk Southern	129%
23	Wells Fargo	125%
24	Symantec	118%
25	Pfizer	111%
26	IBM	106%
27	Pulte	101%
28	GE	98%
29	Kellogg	79%
30	Verizon	77%
31	Toll Brothers	20%
32	gold	59%
33	Bank of America	57%
34	A2 Single Family Median	36%
35	Exxon Mobil	17%
36	A2 Condominium Median	9%
37	Citigroup	-14%
38	Chessie	-57%
39	Cliffs Natural Res	-60%
40	Weatherford	-99%

Your home, someone is sure to tell you, is the most important investment you'll ever make. But is it also the best? Making that claim requires some apples-to-oranges comparisons: even in the midst of a very strong real estate market like the one we have now, making a killing in real estate happens much less often than it does for stock pickers.

Every few years we look at real estate prices in Ann Arbor and compare them to the performance of some common stock investments. Our last eight-year comparison, in December of 2014, used stock and real estate prices from 2006 as a baseline. That put the real estate starting point at the height of the great 2000s boom; by 2014, home prices were still feeling the effects of the ensuing crash. Among the 1,811 homes that changed hands in the first ten months of 2014, the median price of single-family homes had appreciated in value by just 1 percent compared to 2006. Condominiums had actually lost 9 percent of their value.

This time the picture is brighter. Based on our monthly sales data, which come from public records, in the first ten months of 2016 the median selling price of a single-family home in the Ann Arbor school district, excluding new construction, was $320,000—a 36 percent increase over 2008's already-falling $235,000. The condominium medium was $188,000, up 9 percent from 2008's $173,250. You can massage the figures in various ways to evaluate a home as an investment, but there's no doubt that Ann Arbor real estate is looking better these days.

True, the returns sound a bit mundane compared with the stratospheric figures achieved by some of the stocks on our list, headed by Ann Arbor Township's own Domino's pizza. But as the lower end of our chart shows, slow and steady wins some races as well. And you can't live in a stock certificate.

—James M. Manheim

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Ann Arbor

Remarkable Country English style home filled with charm and history. Tucked away at the end of a cul-de-sac, this 4 bedroom, 3 bath home provides complete privacy. More than 400K in recent improvements inside and out. ***$1,245,000***

Ann Arbor

Right in the heart of downtown, this Ashley Mews brownstone features superior finishes throughout. Soaring 2-story living room with fireplace. Third floor study/3rd bedroom. Attached 2-car garage and finished lower level. ***$900,000***

Ann Arbor

Tranquil, country-like setting for this stunning Scio Township home situated on 3 private acres with wooded views. Vaulted living room with exposed wood beams. Unbelievable kitchen has coffered ceiling and all the extras. ***$894,900***

Chelsea

Spectacular Heritage custom log home located on 6.26 very private acres with incredible views. With 7 baths, 3 kitchens with granite, 2 laundry rooms, 7 fireplaces, and 3 separate living areas, the possibilities are endless. ***$699,900***

Ann Arbor

Plenty of living space in this 2-story on a cul-de-sac in the Riverwood subdivision. Stately pillars separate the formal living room from the dining room. Vaulted master suite features a spa-like bath with jacuzzi tub and dual vanity. ***$489,000***

Ann Arbor

Incredible south facing views of downtown from this Ashley Terrace condo. Located on the fourth floor, this one bedroom unit boasts hardwood floors, a stylish kitchen with granite and stainless appliances. Indoor parking & storage. ***$399,900***

Ann Arbor

All the work has already been done at this well-maintained home in the popular Foxfire subdivision! Hardwood floors extend from the foyer to the formal living and dining rooms. Kitchen is updated with granite counters. ***$394,900***

Ann Arbor

Brownstone end unit at Barclay Park! This spacious condo features 3 bedrooms, plus 3.1 baths. Vaulted living room with fireplace is bright and very open. Master suite has walk-in closet, Jacuzzi tub and separate shower. ***$298,900***

Ann Arbor

Great location, just 5 minutes from the Hospital, downtown, and North Campus, for this Northside Ridge condo! Bright and spacious living room opens to a covered balcony. Private master bedroom suite. 1-car, attached garage. ***$224,900***

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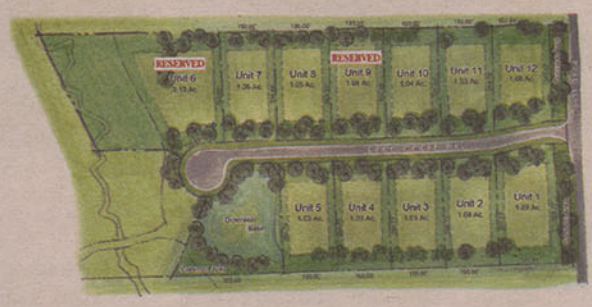

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i spy

by Sally Bjork

"I spy a mural," writes Jason Rupley, referring to the black-and-white painting featured in November. It's on "the Thayer Street entrance of Panera," says Sara Kitzsteiner, "… across from Hill Auditorium," adds Bethanni Grecynski. Susan Tainter of U-M's School of Information notes the former Comerica Bank branch "has a space on an upper floor for community engagement." This mural was painted "by street artist Olga Alexopoulou," writes Dave Bicknell.

Alexopoulou's work is part of U-M's Global Graffiti Project. Three internationally renowned muralists—Alexopoulou, Cacao Rocks, and Mehdi Ghadyanloo—each visited this fall to paint a wall, two exteriors at Panera and one interior wall at the U-M Institute for the Humanities at 202 S. Thayer building. The goal, according to a U-M website, was to provide "a global perspective of street art and its importance as a part of public space and discourse within the public sphere."

Ever-changing except the capsule beneath

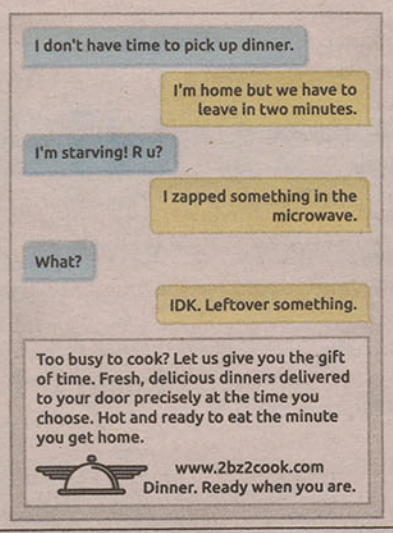
We received twelve entries in November identifying Alexopoulou's mural. Our random drawing winner is Mark Stefaniak of Ann Arbor. He will enjoy his $25 gift certificate at Tios.

To enter this month's contest, identify the photo above and and follow the directions at the bottom of the page.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received 137 entries correctly identifying the Fake Ad for 2bztocook.com on page 49 of the November issue. "All I got to say is this," wrote David Karl. "Sometimes you come up with the most amazing business ideas in these Fake Ads. I would be so there if this was a thing. 'Fresh, delicious dinners, hot and ready to eat the minute you get home.' Oh … yeah … an idea whose time is now, clearly. Beats the pizza you pick up on the way home, that winds up a soggy mess by the time you sit down to eat it."


I don't have time to pick up dinner.
I'm home but we have to leave in two minutes.
I'm starving! R u?
I zapped something in the microwave.
What?
IDK. Leftover something.
Too busy to cook? Let us give you the gift of time. Fresh, delicious dinners delivered to your door precisely at the time you choose. Hot and ready to eat the minute you get home.
www.2bz2cook.com
Dinner. Ready when you are.

Melodie Marske (whose name makes us want to sing) also lamented that the business isn't real, yet. "Too bad," she wrote. "I think it could get traction in Ann Arbor."

And Suzanne Tainter appreciated the distraction our little contest provides. "Thanks," she wrote. "Looking for the Fake Ad took my mind off this disastrous election for a few moments."

Our winner, if there are still winners, was Bob Abel. He's taking his gift certificate to Big City Small World bakery.

To enter this month's contest, find the fake ad and follow the instructions in the box below. The fake ad always contains the name of last month's winner in some form.

To enter this month's contests, send email to fakead@aaobserver.com or ispy@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on Friday, December 9, will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive $25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our November drawing!

The following readers won a **$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

November winners:
Sigrid R. & Donald C.

If you would like to be entered in the December drawing for a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 108, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by December 9.

Thanks!
Observer Staff

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Winter Spring Summer or Fall, all you have to do is call—and we'll be there!

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Merry Christmas!

8th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Show

Live from Briarwood Mall on Saturday, December 10 9AM–5PM

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Ann Arbor Observer

WE'RE HIRING!

We're looking for a full-time Assistant Calendar Editor to begin in August 2017, with some part-time work available in the meantime. The position requires good writing skills, detail-oriented focus, the ability to get information from sometimes uncooperative people, and the stamina to meet deadlines.

Send resumes to Katie@aaobserver.com.

Events at a Glance

Daily ***Events*** *listings begin on p.* ***79.*** ***Films:*** *p.* ***83.*** ***Galleries:*** *p.* ***97.*** ***Nightspots*** *begin on p.* ***76.***
➢**Reviewed** in this issue. See p. **79.**

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- "An Organist's Christmas," Dec. 2
- Measure for Measure men's chorus, Dec. 2
- "Annual Croissant Concert" (Kerrytown Concert House), Dec. 3
- "21st Annual Evening of Sacred Song," Dec. 3
- University Choral Union *Messiah,* Dec. 3
- TubaChristmas, Dec. 4
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 4
- "Opening Time and Art: Early Music Concert," Dec. 5
- Ypsilanti Community Choir, Dec. 8
- "A Boychoir Christmas," Dec. 9
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops, Dec. 9
- ➢The King's Singers, Dec. 10
- Ann Arbor Civic Chorus, Dec. 11
- Dexter Community Orchestra, Dec. 11
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 11
- Ann Arbor Grail Singers, Dec. 11
- Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Dec. 15
- ➢Bolcom & Morris (cabaret), Dec. 16
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 17
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 18
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 18

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

See ***Nightspots,*** *p. 76, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs.*

- U-M Groove (percussion), Dec. 2
- Christine Lavin & Don White (singer-songwriters), Dec. 2
- Jamie Baum Quintet (jazz), Dec. 3
- Dick Siegel (singer-songwriter), Dec. 7
- Chuck Mitchell (singer-guitarist), Dec. 9
- Rudy Royston Orion Trio (jazz), Dec. 13
- "The Magic of Christmas" (jazz), Dec. 16
- "Dodworth Saxhorn Band Holiday Brass," Dec. 16
- "Glenn Tucker's Jazz Nativity," Dec. 16
- Katie Geddes & Friends (folk), Dec. 16
- Jason Dennie & Friends (acoustic), Dec. 17
- Alberto Nacif & Aguankó (Afro-Cuban), Dec. 17
- Bittersweet Christmas Band (folk), Dec. 18
- Nucleus (rock), Dec. 19
- Jeff Daniels (singer-songwriter), Dec. 26–31
- Pete Siers Trio (jazz), Dec. 31

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *She Loves Me* (Broadway broadcast), Dec. 1
- *Mary Poppins* (Encore), every Thurs.–Sun. through Dec. 23
- ➢*Sugar Plum Panto* (Theatre Nova), every Thurs.–Sun. through Dec. 23
- *Hand to God* (U-M Basement Arts), Dec. 1–3
- *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Saline Area Players), Dec. 1–4
- *Morning After Grace* (Purple Rose), Dec. 1–4, 7–11, & 14–17
- *Christmas Carol'd* (EMU Theatre), Dec. 2–4 & 8–11
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (EMU Dance), Dec. 2
- *Murder, by Chanel* (U-M Residential College), Dec. 2 & 3
- *The Nutcracker* (Randazzo), Dec. 3 & 4
- *The Nutcracker* (Ballet Chelsea), Dec. 3, 4, 10, & 11
- *Dronedog Episode 2: Election Day* (Dreamland Puppet Troupe), Dec. 4, 11, & 18
- *King Lear* (Royal Shakespeare Company broadcast), Dec. 4
- *The Nutcracker: A Jazz Suite* (Saline Big Band & Lighthouse Dance Company), Dec. 6 & 7
- *Peter and the Starcatcher* (U-M Theatre), Dec. 8–11
- *Within Perception* (U-M Dance), Dec. 8–10
- *The Sorcerer* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 8–11
- *L'Amour de Loin* (Metropolitan Opera broadcast), Dec. 10
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance), Dec. 11
- George Takei's *Allegiance* (Broadway broadcast), Dec. 13
- *In the Red and Brown Water* (U-M Basement Arts), Dec. 14–16
- *The Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 16–18
- *The Nutcracker* (Bolshoi Ballet broadcast), Dec. 18

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- "RiffTrax Holiday Special Double Feature," Dec. 1
- Comic Matt McClowry, Dec. 1–3
- "Pointless Improv: Holiday Style" (Pointless Brewery & Theatre), every Fri. & Sat. through Dec. 23
- Comic Tyler Boeh, Dec. 8–10
- Comic Sean Kent, Dec. 15–17
- Comic Kevin Downey Jr., Dec. 22 & 23
- "Hashtag Comedy Show," Dec. 28
- Comic Dobie Maxwell, Dec. 29 & 30
- Comic L.A. Hardy, Dec. 31
- "A New Year's Anniversary Show" (Pointless Brewery & Theatre), Dec. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 2–4
- KindleFest, Dec. 2
- "Midnight Madness," Dec. 2
- "Christmas at the Mansion," Dec. 2
- "Christmas in the Village," Dec. 2
- Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 2–4
- "Christmas on the Farm," Dec. 3 & 4
- Saline Holiday Parade, Dec. 3
- Ypsilanti Holiday Home Tour, Dec. 3
- Cobblestone Farm "Country Christmas," Dec. 4
- "Christmas at Rentschler Farm," Dec. 10, 17, & 18
- Himalayan Festival, Dec. 10 & 11
- "19th-Century Castles & Villages Ball," Dec. 10

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Poets Siaara Freeman & Scott Beal, Dec. 4
- Poet Casey Rocheteau, Dec. 20

Miscellaneous

- Annual Synchronized Skating Classic, Dec. 2–4
- New Year's Eve Gourmet Dinner Trek, Dec. 31

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Mr. Magnolia* (Civic Theatre Junior Theatre), Dec. 2–4
- *Frosty* (Theatreworks USA), Dec. 3
- *A Christmas Carol* (Wild Swan), Dec. 8–11
- *The Snow Queen* (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 16–18

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Syrian Cultural Celebration, Dec. 4

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MPSA CRUSH is looking forward to adding new players and teams during winter training at EMU Dome. Open enrollment starts in November and continues through March 2017. Please contact Club Directors for more info at mpsa.adm@gmail.com.

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